

# The Brooklyn Paper

Including The Brooklyn Heights Paper, Carroll Gardens-Cobble Hill Paper, DUMBO Paper and the Downtown News

**A Brooklyn  
Publication**

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Bruce Springsteen visited the Brooklyn Museum last week to see the Basquiat exhibit.

## Basquiat brings Boss to Brooklyn

By Jotham Sederstrom

The Brooklyn Papers

Marilyn Monroe may have been blessed with beauty, but it seems that another troubled genius is melting the hearts of the city's celebs.

Indeed, since opening at the Brooklyn Museum on March 11, the works of artist Jean-Michel Basquiat have been drawing a steady stream of bold-face names, not least of all Leonardo DiCaprio, Gisele Bündchen and "The Boss" himself, Bruce Springsteen. Top that off with visits by Spike Lee and celebrity chef Bobby Flay and it

becomes clear that Basquiat, not Monroe, is the real star catcher. But who could blame 'em. While the Monroe exhibit, "I Want to be Loved By You: Photographs of Marilyn Monroe," has been a bonafide success, with officials extending the show by two weeks, it is the Basquiat retrospective that New Yorkers in the know have been anticipating since 1992, when the Whitney hosted a similar exhibition.

Sally Williams, a spokeswoman for the museum, said that during the opening weekend both DiCaprio and his on-again, off-again supermodel girlfriend Bündchen showed up to

gaze at the neo-expressionist art. Since then, filmmaker Lee and Flay, host of the Food Network's "Hot Off the Grill with Bobby Flay" have dropped by the museum, as well as one actor from "Law & Order" whose name — oops — museum officials could not recall.

But it took until last week — March 24, to be exact — for Springsteen to drop by. James Gordon, a media relations manager for the museum, said that only an hour after calling ahead, Springsteen, his wife, Patti Scialfa, and their two kids showed up eager for a tour. After a brief detour into the American

See BOSS on page 14

## OINK! OINK!

## Indy to be piggy-backed bank under Walentas hi-rise

By Jess Wisloski

The Brooklyn Papers

Independence Community Bank plans to sell its grand branch at the corner of Court Street and Atlantic Avenue in Cobble Hill to a DUMBO-based development company that would build a seven-story apartment complex above and adjacent to the bank, Independence bank said this week.

The Brooklyn Papers first reported on the planned development in June 2004. This week, an Independence spokesman confirmed that the bank was negotiating the sale of that building, as well as an adjacent parking lot and a one-story building on the other side of the parking lot.

The potential buyer is Two Trees Management, a development company owned by the father-son development team of David and Jed Walentas, according to applications filed with the city's Landmarks Preservation Commission.

Two Trees, known primarily for their residential and commercial conversions in DUMBO, are nearing completion on the Court House apartment complex catty-corner from the Independence bank branch at Atlantic Avenue and Court Street. They are also planning a residential conversion of the former Board of Education head-

See PIGGY-BACK on page 2



David Walentas wants to build above and adjacent to the Independence Community Bank at the corner of Court Street and Atlantic Avenue in the Cobble Hill Historic District; the bank said.

## Union St. Holiday Inn irks some neighbors

By Jotham Sederstrom

The Brooklyn Papers

Homeowners in the Gowanus end of Park Slope are decrying new plans that will allow the borough's first Holiday Inn hotel to rise on Union Street without issuing a single public notice.

At issue is the building's size, which at eight stories is at least three to four stories taller than most of the surrounding residential and commercial buildings.

Planned two years ago as a pair of identical five-story hotel buildings, the project was consolidated last month into one eight-story structure between

Third and Fourth avenues, both to allow for additional parking and to conform with design plans preferred by the InterContinental Hotels Group, which manages the chain and other hotel franchises.

But while the original project had never been welcomed with open arms, the new plan, say some residents, is even worse, thanks to the likelihood that the hotel will cast a shadow over the industrial-residential neighborhood.

"Everything's like a Trojan horse these days," griped Linda Mariano, who has lived on President Street near Hoyt Street since 1974. "You get so you're afraid to go to sleep because you might wake up to who knows what."

See HOLIDAY on page 2

## Brewery contest grand prize is a trip to Brooklyn

By Jotham Sederstrom

The Brooklyn Papers

While mass-market beer companies continue to dish out promotional vacations to Tahiti and Jamaica, Steve Hindy, president of the Brooklyn Brewery, is offering an all-expenses paid trip to a locale closer to home that in addition to beaches, features high culture, fine dining and even an amusement park — Brooklyn.

Beginning this week, the brewery is offering a sweepstakes in which 10 winners and five of their friends will be treat-

ed to a day on the town that will include a tour of the Williamsburg-based brewery, a trip to Coney Island and tickets to a Brooklyn Cyclones minor league baseball game at Keyspan Park, as well as a limousine to transport the lucky winners from one side of the borough to the other.

"We've always had to compete with these giant corporations, these international brewing conglomerates," said Hindy, who started the homegrown brewery nearly 20 years ago. "They're always doing these programs, offering trips to Scotland or Pebble Beach or the like."

See VACATION on page 15



At Main Street's Brooklyn Bridge Park Wednesday, Cyclones mascot Sandy the Seagull (left), Borough President Marty Markowitz (center) and Brooklyn Brewery President Steve Hindy unveiled a sweepstakes in which 10 lucky winners get dream vacations to Brooklyn.

## Commission hears Heights 'Candy' gripes

By Jess Wisloski

The Brooklyn Papers

Brooklyn Heights residents seeking to quash a plan to build a high-rise atop an open courtyard at Henry and Poplar streets turned out for a Landmarks Preservation Commission hearing on the proposal this week.

The hearing room at the commission's headquarters in Manhattan was crowded with residents, civic association members, displaced tenants and preservationists alike who shared their displeasure at a developer's plans for 20 Henry St.

Affectionately known as the Candy Factory for its former use as the Peaks Mason Mints factory, the preserved warehouse was home to artists' lofts over the past four decades, until a new developer purchased the building last spring and evicted the tenants.

Subsequently, the development company, a group of Manhattan-based investors called The Prædium Group LLC, introduced plans to the landmarks commission seeking to build a new, nine-story apartment complex next door to 20 Henry St., at the corner of Poplar Street, demolishing what many claim to be a landmarked private garden.

"We think this is the most important issue to come before the Brooklyn Heights Association since the establishment of Brooklyn Heights as an historic district. We hope you will treat it as such," testified Judy Stanton, the neighborhood organization's executive director.

Dan Wiley, a community liaison for Rep. Nydia Velázquez, read a prepared statement to the 11-member commission.

"Though the tenant effort is over," he read, "I did not think we would have to revisit 20 Henry St. over the character or its presence in the neighborhood."

"Though not public, this space See CANDY on page 12



A youngster can't believe her eyes as she spots a giant Easter Bunny (with equally-large Easter eggs) during Fulton Street Easter Parade last Saturday. For more photos, see page 2.

## Cabby stab in Heights

The Brooklyn Papers

Police are investigating the stabbing in Brooklyn Heights of a yellow taxicab driver by a fare, who then fled on foot.

The cabby was stabbed in the back near his shoulder as he approached the corner of Pierrepont and Hicks streets in Brooklyn Heights around 8:45 pm on Tuesday.

After the jagged knife was jammed into his back, Mammun Haq, 42, told the Daily News, he slammed closed the taxi partition and sped up the block.

When the cabby hit the brakes, the attacker fled. Haq opened the car door and screamed for help.

The driver was taken to Bellevue Hospital and was listed in stable condition as this went to press.

The suspect was still at large.

— Jess Wisloski



Police investigate stabbing of cab driver at the corner of Pierrepont and Hicks streets Tuesday night.



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April 2, 2005

## Eggs-cellent

Members of the Gowanus Wildcats (right) pose with the Easter Bunny on Fulton Street last Saturday during Easter Parade. Below, a youngster shows off stash of eggs she found during the Brooklyn Bridge Park Easter Egg Hunt and Spring Fling in DUMBO, also on Saturday.



The Brooklyn Papers • Tom Calkins



The Brooklyn Papers • Tom Calkins

## PIGGY-BACK BANK...

Continued from page 1

quarters at 110 Livingston St. "We're negotiating to sell the property," said Mike Armstrong, a spokesman for Independence Community Bank. The sale includes the bank at 130 Court St., an adjacent parking lot at 180 Atlantic Ave., and a one-story building at 182 Atlantic Ave. that houses the Independence Community Foundation, which will be relocated.

Should the sale go through, the bank would relocate temporarily to its branch at 195 Montague St. during construction, but eventually buy the bank space back from Two Trees as a commercial condominium, said Armstrong. Two Trees currently leases space to Independence for a branch on Washington Street at Water Street in DUMBO.

He said the bank would retain its entrance on Court Street while the apartment building entrance would be on Atlantic Avenue. The resulting building would

stand seven stories straight across Atlantic Avenue. The construction would add a two-level penthouse over the top of the bank, which was built in 1922 in a Florentine Renaissance style. The new construction would bring new studio and one-bedroom apartments into the increasingly busy stretch of avenue running through Brooklyn Heights, Cobble Hill and Boerum Hill.

The spokesman said negotiations were "serious enough that we've applied together with [Two Trees] for the permits—the Landmarks Certificate of Appropriateness and the City Planning permit to change the bulk of the building."

While not itself a landmark, the former South Brooklyn Savings Institution sits at the northeast corner of the Cobble Hill Historic District and therefore any changes to the building facade and any proposal to build higher than is permitted under the district guidelines requires Landmarks Preservation Commission approval.

According to the Landmarks Preservation Commission, Two

Trees Management has submitted applications for permits to build atop the bank, to demolish the one-story building and to construct "a penthouse addition and seven-story adjacent addition."

Diane Jucker, a spokeswoman for the Landmarks Preservation Commission, added that Two Trees had applied to "change the use of the building."

All of the permits, however, will first require a review by Community Board 6. The board was scheduled to hear the application for a certificate of appropriateness on March 31.

Of particular concern to some area residents is the proposed building's penthouse addition, which would reach a height of 81 feet, piercing the 50-foot height limit on residential properties in the Brooklyn Heights and Cobble Hill historic districts, and even the commercial height limit of 60 feet for the Atlantic Avenue corridor.

Some nearby residents are not pleased with the plan. "This bank has never done anything in the best interests of the community," said Dick Tur-

mail, who lives at 173 Pacific St., behind the parking lot that is slated to become part of the residential development.

Turmail doesn't think it will be approved. "This is a historic landmark area. It's why many of us moved over here when we were young professionals," said Turmail.

"We really single-handedly carved out this neighborhood and made it a historic district," which he said would be compromised by an influx of new residents, mainly singles due to the size of the apartments.

Carolyn Kneib, an environmental impact consultant who lives at 175 Pacific Street, agreed, saying it was important to maintain the 50-foot height limitation in Brooklyn Heights and Cobble Hill, noting that a zoning resolution allowed 60-foot limits along Atlantic Avenue, which is where the two-story bank is located.

"People don't want to have that precedent broken because it would establish a breach for other developers, particularly along Pacific Street, where there are lots of parking lots and garages that would consider the same kinds of exemptions."

Armstrong countered that the property belonged to Independence Community Bank for 100 years or more," he said, and added that although plans were moving forward, they are not set in stone.

"This is happening to move the process along while we're finalizing the sale," said Armstrong. "That's why the applications have been filed jointly, but it's in contemplation and expectation of the sale."

Likewise, he said, "If for some reason the sale isn't concluded, this will not be happening."

According to Turmail, the plans, since they've been in negotiation, have stirred strong feelings of opposition.

"There's already been an outcry," said Turmail, at a Cobble Hill Association meeting last week.

He lamented the ever-changing streetscape of greater Downtown Brooklyn, even beyond the bank.

"We have trees and we know our neighbors," said Turmail. "This kind of thing really starts destroying the roots of the community, slowly but surely."

### LEGAL NOTICES

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND: Newport, SC Case No. 104-CSD, OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF THE FAMILY COURT: Onita Arday of Newport, Rhode Island has filed complaints in the office scheduled to be heard on April 26, 2005 demanding a judgment of divorce from Michael Shaw demanding sole custody of Tyne Arday born 06/20/07. That the defendant is to appear in person or by attorney for the support of the plaintiff and answer said.

Notice is hereby given that an Order entered by the Court, Kings County on the 28th day of March, 2005, leaving the Index Number 100329051, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at CIVIL COURT, KINGS COUNTY, 141 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201, in room 007, grants as rights to: 1. Assume the name of Peter Palmer. My present name is Peter Palmer. My present address is 176 Gateway Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11209. My place of birth is Brooklyn, New York. My date of birth is January 1, 1995. 8P14

Notice is hereby given that an Order entered by the Court, Kings County on the 28th day of March, 2005, leaving the Index Number 100329051, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at CIVIL COURT, KINGS COUNTY, 141 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201, in room 007, grants as rights to: 1. Assume the name of Paul Palmer. My present name is Paul Palmer. My present address is 176 Gateway Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11209. My place of birth is Brooklyn, New York. My date of birth is January 1, 1995. 8P14

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# Hicks-Cranberry mug

By Jess Wisloski  
The Brooklyn Papers

A pedestrian asking for subway directions in Brooklyn Heights mugged a man mid-morning on March 27.

The stranger approached his victim, 35, at 9:45 am on the corner of Hicks and Cranberry streets, only blocks from the man's Pinnacle Street home.

He asked for subway directions and when the victim stopped to help him the mugger slammed him against a metal fence instead of thanking him for his courtesy.

"Give me the money," demanded the mugger, who had his hand in his jacket pocket simulating a gun.

The victim, 45, told the stranger he had no money. Angry, the mugger pushed the victim to the ground, and fled eastbound on Cranberry Street and then turned right on Henry Street.

Police are investigating the incident and looking for a 6-foot-2 man with a dark complexion.

### Scare mugger

Minutes earlier, on the same day, a robber mugged a man as he sat in his car on Columbia Heights.

The victim, 49, told police he was in his vehicle between Orange and Cranberry streets on March 27 at 9:43 am when a stranger approached him and asked for directions to "Hart Street."

When the victim replied that he was unfamiliar with the street, the mugger demanded, "Give me your money or I'll

## POLICE BLOTTER

shoot you." The stranger gestured with his hands inside his pocket, simulating a weapon.

The victim started to yell, to deter the mugger, and soon enough the would-be gunman fled the scene, and headed east-bound on Cranberry Street.

### Tracked down

Two militaristic muggers cornered a man in Downtown Brooklyn and mugged him at gunpoint on March 26.

The victim, 37, told police he believed that the men made an operation of tracking him down and cornering him on Schermerhorn Street between Hoyt and Bond streets, after following him from Red Hook where he had picked up his pay.

At 1:39 am, the victim told police, the men, who were both black, approached him from behind, and with one of the men acting as a lookout, the other, who he described as 6 feet tall and 220 pounds, wearing an army jacket, green beret and military-green overcoat, approached him.

"Give it up, we know you got it," the man said, and pulled out a black automatic handgun.

The second man also produced a black handgun and searched the victim, pulling \$700 out of his pants pocket, as well as other property, the victim told police.

The second man struck the victim on the head, near his left ear, knocking him over, before they split.

Among the other items taken were a \$400 cellular phone, a portable CD player, black jacket, Social Security card and birth certificate.

### 'Con' job

Car thieves broke into, and subsequently broke, a vehicle parked in a lot for Con Edison vehicles in Vinegar Hill on March 20.

Con Ed official reported to police that criminals attempted

to steal the Con Ed utility van from the parking lot on Water Street between Gold Street and Hudson Avenue. The driver's-side door appeared to be unlocked, and the thieves tried popping the ignition, say police.

The vandalized white 2003 GMC Savana was discovered by a manager at 2:30 pm.

Instead of succeeding in starting the van, the column for the ignition switch was broken, and the thieves cut the car's electrical lines.

### Identity creep

The friend of a Brooklyn Heights woman is alleged to have robbed her identity and, stealing thousands of dollars from her bank account.

According to the victim, who lives on Clinton Street between Perrott and Court streets, the friend used the computer at her apartment and was able to access her personal credit card password, possibly by looking at her history.

Then, on March 18, at 5:58 pm, the victim discovered that, using the code, someone had withdrawn \$7,596 from her account.

Police are now on the hunt for the friend, whose name the victim supplied.

### Resists arrest

A woman, who was being taken into police custody in Downtown Brooklyn threw such a fit March 21 she managed to injure the two police officers trying to restrain her.

The officers were conducting a lawful arrest at family court, but after they approached the suspect, 27, at 1 pm, she immediately flailed out in violent rebellion against the arrest.

A female officer reported that she kicked, punched, and pushed the officer, causing pain and swelling to the victim's leg. The other officer reported the woman's actions as swatting him by biting his arm, causing abrasions, swelling and substantial pain.

The woman was eventually restrained by Police Officer Everett Newman, of the 84th Precinct, and she will be charged with assault and resisting arrest.

### Fast-food binge

A thief with major hunger pangs made off with a box full of fast food coupon cards from

the locker room of a Downtown Brooklyn burger joint on March 25.

According to police reports, the Burger King at the Fulton Mall lost a total of \$8,500 in "value meal" cards that were stolen from a box on top of a set of lockers in the basement between 8:30 am and 11:00 am.

None of the employees were seen leaving the area with the box, and all the lockers were searched for evidence.

According to the store manager, 48, the value of the cards ranged from \$4 to \$8, and the box contained 1,000 cards.

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Notice is hereby given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Kings County on the 23rd day of March, 2005, bearing the Index Number N00022005, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at CIVIL COURT, KINGS COUNTY, 141 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201, in room 007, grants me rights to: Assume the name of Quatre M. Warren. My present name is Quatre Monique Baker. My present address is 23 East 17th Street, Apt. 3D, Brooklyn, NY 11226. My place of birth is Brooklyn, New York. My date of birth is November 19, 1982.

Notice is hereby given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Kings County on the 23rd day of March, 2005, bearing the Index Number N0004005, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at CIVIL COURT, KINGS COUNTY, 141 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201, in room 007, grants me rights to: Assume the name of Anthony Domestico Ward. My present name is Jay Anthony Ward. My present address is 191 New Jersey Avenue, #2, Brooklyn, NY 11201. My place of birth is St. James, Barbados. My date of birth is January 10, 1985.

Notice is hereby given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Kings County on the 18th day of March, 2005, bearing the Index Number N00022005, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at CIVIL COURT, KINGS COUNTY, 141 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201, in room 007, grants me rights to: Assume the name of Anthony Domestico Ward. My present name is Jay Anthony Ward. My present address is 191 New Jersey Avenue, #2, Brooklyn, NY 11201. My place of birth is St. James, Barbados. My date of birth is January 10, 1985.

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## POLICE BLOTTER

# Stabbed in subway

By Jess Wisloski  
The Brooklyn Papers

Police are investigating the mysterious stabbing of a teenager inside the Fourth Avenue-Ninth Street subway station.

According to police reports, the teenager, 15, was standing on the northbound R train platform at 9:53 am on March 24 with friends when a man, described to be in his 40s, bumped into him.

Witnesses and police said an argument ensued between the teenager and the assailant.

Suddenly, and without warning, the unknown man pulled a knife out of his pocket and stabbed the teenager in the stomach.

The man fled down the platform towards the F train. Police conducted a tunnel and track search for the man, but were unable to find him.

The teenager was taken to Lutheran Medical Center in stable condition.

The assailant was described as a Hispanic male, about 39 years old, 5-foot-5 and 150 pounds.

**Gang beating**

An 18-year-old man, part of a group of 15 teenagers walking along Fifth Avenue in Park Slope, stabbed a 17-year-old in the upper back on March 24, say police.

The victim told police he was standing outside a nail salon between 12th and 13th streets at 4:20 pm with two female friends when the group passed him on the street.

Suddenly one of the men approached him from behind and

stabbed him in the back with a knife. The victim was with two other friends who witnessed the incident, and although he told police the gang members were strangers, he initially gave a false name for the police report, say cops.

A report from a witness said the victim was hit about the face and body with a bat, causing lacerations about the face and a swollen knee.

The victim was treated at New York Methodist Hospital, and the perpetrator was arrested on the scene by 78th Precinct Police Officer Maria M. Solano.

**Bump and mug**

A man who failed an accidental nudge mugged and beat a Park Slope woman for her pocketbook on March 20.

The victim, 28, told police she was walking home at 7:55 pm on the corner of Prospect Park West and Third Street when someone approached from behind and bumped into her left shoulder.

"Do you have any cash?" the man asked nonchalantly. The woman attempted to run, but the assailant was too quick and grabbed her pocketbook in one swoop.

In a sudden strike, he punched her in the back of the head, knocking the woman to the ground and causing a laceration on the back of her head.

The thief ran with her purse westbound on Carroll Street along the park, but police caught up to him at Prospect Park West and Third Street.

The 36-year-old man was arrested by Police Officer Kenneth Loughlin of the 78th Precinct.

The woman was able to identify the suspect at the scene, and most of her property was recovered from the suspect's pockets or on the ground, including her driver's license, credit cards, health care card, wallet, gloves, cellular phone, cosmetics, and house keys.

**Two-on-one**

Two violent female robbers mugged and beat a Park Slope woman for her purse, and \$420 in property, as she walked home on March 21.

The victim, 33, was halted by the women as she walked westbound on Sixth Avenue between 11th and 12th streets at 10:20 pm.

Both women had run up behind her suddenly, and the first blocked her path. Grabbing the victim's shoulder bag, the stranger tried to wrench it free from its owner's grasp.

The second attacker stood by silently, holding a metal pipe in her hand. Still resisting the mugging, the victim was hit in her left leg by the second woman. The first, she said, continued to pull her bag.

Earlier, the first mugger laughed throughout the attack. The quiet blonde continued to relentlessly hit the victim in her face and right arm, causing bruises.

Eventually the two women made off with the stolen bag, and fled south on Sixth Avenue with the property, which included a \$60 designer handbag, \$60 in cash, various credit cards, a \$300 iPod, an identification pass from the Department of Correction and an attorney ID card.

The victim was only one block from her home. Police are investigating.

**14th St. larceny**

Car thieves stole a green 1996 Honda Accord between March 19 and March 21.

The victim, 43, lived just up the block from 14th Street and Sixth Avenue where he parked the car at 6 pm on March 19. Upon his return, at 2:30 pm on March 21, he found the vehicle missing, but witnessed no broken glass at the scene.

Police tow records came up negative but an investigation is ongoing.

### LEGAL NOTICES

Notice of the formation SURETY OXYGEN-TECH, LLC, a domestic Professional Limited Liability Company (LLC) Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State on 10/26/04. NY office location: KING'S COUNTY, 141 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201, in room 003. My present name is "Rural Simplicity." My present address is 45 East 19th Street, 4th Floor, New York, New York 10003. My place of birth is Jersey City, NJ. My date of birth is September 8, 1974.

Notice is hereby given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Kings County on the 28th day of March, 2005, bearing the Index Number 00026595, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at CIVIL COURT, KING'S COUNTY, 141 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201, in room 003, grants me rights to Assume the name of Rural Simplicity. My present name is "Rural Simplicity." My present address is 45 East 19th Street, 4th Floor, New York, New York 10003. My place of birth is Jersey City, NJ. My date of birth is September 8, 1974.

Notice is hereby given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Kings County on the 28th day of March, 2005, bearing the Index Number 00026595, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at CIVIL COURT, KING'S COUNTY, 141 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201, in room 003, grants me rights to Assume the name of Rural Simplicity. My present name is "Rural Simplicity." My present address is 45 East 19th Street, 4th Floor, New York, New York 10003. My place of birth is Jersey City, NJ. My date of birth is September 8, 1974.

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# Loophole leaves fliers on cars

By Jotham Sederstrom  
The Brooklyn Papers

Enterprising businesses are freely — and legally — plastering parked cars in Brooklyn with handbills two years after a state law was enacted to quash the advertisements, thanks to a loophole in the legislation's wording. The Brooklyn Papers has learned.

Banned by the law from wedding advertisements between windshield wipers or otherwise affixing them to windshields, entrepreneurs have honed in on a legislative oversight that highlights the

wipers but excludes any mention of other automotive parts, like handle doors and side-view mirrors.

The legislative blunder, say residents, amounts to a pile of new litter on borough streets each time car owners toss the papers from their vehicles.

"Now they're putting them all over the car," said Howard Feuer, district manager of Community Board 11, which encompasses Bath Beach, Bensonhurst, Gravesend and a small portion of Borough Park. "They're dangling off side-view mirrors, pushed into car handles — I've seen 'em stuffed under wipers' side windows. Obviously they got the word out."

Concurrently sponsored by Assemblywoman Joan Millman and state Sen. Mary Golden, the 2-year-old law had sought to penalize businesses with \$75 fines whenever their names, addresses or phone numbers turned up under windshield wipers. Instead, howev-



Fliers can legally be attached to the sideview mirrors of cars, like these on 13th Avenue at 54th Street in Borough Park.

er, fliers for cell phones, oil changes and car washes are sprouting in just about every nook and cranny imaginable.

Among the businesses found this week to have taken advantage of the loophole is Sander's Furniture, in Williamsburg. When asked why the business, at 40 Penn St., had decided to put their handbills on side-view mirrors, rather than on windshields, Mike Oberlander, a manager of the furniture retailer, told a reporter that it was legal.

"It's no problem, it's completely legal," said Oberlander. "Someone figured it out."

Asked why the handbills had been placed on cars in Borough Park, so far away from its sole storefront in Williamsburg, Oberlander said, "Because we need customers from all across the borough. We more or less put them in the Jewish neighborhoods."

As is, the state legislation reads: "In a city of 1 million or more, there shall be a rebuttable presumption that the person whose name, telephone number or other identifying information appears on any handbill or other form of advertisement attached to a windshield or windshield wipers of a motor vehicle shall be in violation of the provisions of this subdivision relating to the prohibition against attaching to windshields and windshield wipers, handbills and other forms of advertisements."

A spokeswoman for Millman acknowledged the legislative gaffe and said that the assemblywoman and Golden would co-sponsor an amended version of the law, which would signify all of the car.

"The proposed legislation, which Assemblywoman Millman will introduce shortly, will prohibit vendors from placing handbills on cars altogether," said Cori Freedman, Millman's spokeswoman.

Feuer, who claims handbill pamphleteers targeted his own steel-gray Toyota Camry earlier this year, said that knowledge of the loophole has extended past Bensonhurst's bustling 86th Street to a 20-block stretch between 40th and 60th streets along Borough Park's 13th Avenue.

While Feuer claimed that the predicament had also struck on at least one street in Bay Ridge — near a diner on 100th Street that he had recently visited — officials with Community Board 10, which represents the neighborhood, said they have not received complaints about the wayward handbills.

Acknowledging, too, that his own community board had not received complaints on the matter, Feuer said that, nonetheless, the full board voted to send letters to the Department of Sanitation and council members in order to notify them of the predicament.

The council has already introduced similar legislation, which would specify the entire car when mentioning the handbills. It was introduced in 2002 and is now idling in committees.

Keith Mellis, a spokesman for the Department of Sanitation, said that in 2004, the first full year the law was in place, 2,440 violations were issued in all five boroughs for handbills placed under windshield wipers. Of those, 117 were issued in Bay Ridge and Dyker Heights and 73 in Bensonhurst, Bath Beach and Gravesend.

"I recognize there's a First Amendment issue and people have a right to pass out their fliers, and I guess that's all right," said Feuer. "But you don't have to be clairvoyant — these things just go straight to the ground."

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## Nab greedy bank bandit

The Brooklyn Papers

Police say they arrested a bandit who attempted to rob the same bank two times in two weeks.

An employee at the Washington Mutual branch at Albee Square and DeKalb Avenue, just off the Fulton Mall, recognized the alleged bandit when he walked into the bank on March 22, exactly one week after he had robbed the same bank.

At 12:15 pm, on March 15, the robber allegedly passed a note demanding a teller empty her drawer. The man, described as in his late 40s and wearing a blue jacket and gray, hooded sweatshirt, fled the scene with \$1,043, say police.

When he returned this week, said a bank manager, a teller noticed him standing in line.

"Two of my tellers recognized him because

he had come before," said the manager, who added that they had seen his photograph taken during the first hold-up from one of the security cameras stationed behind the counter.

"He was waiting in line with a note in his hand," said the manager. "We contacted the police, and we staggered the people in the line."

So, while customers waited, the tellers continued to call customers, but not from the line in which the robber was waiting.

"We told the tellers not to let the customer leave and to keep the customer in line until the police arrived," he said.

In no time, police from the 84th Precinct arrived, and the arrest was made by Police Officer Josephine Murphy.

— Jess Wisloski

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The Brooklyn Papers' essential guide to the Borough of Kings

April 2, 2005

# Pay the 'Piper'

Composer & choreographer discuss making of 'Pied Piper' ballet

By Kevin Filipksi  
for The Brooklyn Papers

Choreographer James Kudelka, artistic director of the National Ballet of Canada since 1996, had an idea for a new ballet after staging the perennial favorite, "The Nutcracker."

"We have a wonderful ballet school, and I thought it was incredible to work with such a large group of motivated dance students," Kudelka said in a telephone interview from his Toronto office. "I thought it was great that we could do the 'Nutcracker,' but why not do the anti-'Nutcracker'? We could do [a ballet that's] not about sweetness and light, values and family."

The ballet that resulted, "The Contract," has its U.S. premiere at the Brooklyn Academy of Music for five performances at the Howard Gilman Opera House from April 5 to April 9. Loosely based on Robert Browning's poem "The Pied Piper of Hamelin," this dark, difficult work with a score by composer Michael Torke had a complicated genesis, according to Kudelka.

"I wanted to create a ballet addressing issues of faith, and I've always been very taken with [Browning's poem], and I thought something could connect those two ideas," he explained. That something—or someone—was Canadian evangelist Aimee Sample McPherson.

"In the '80s, when evangelicals were popular, Aimee was extraordinarily famous," said Kudelka. "She built a temple in L.A., then had a scandal where she disappeared. She said she was kidnapped, but she had really gone to a motel with somebody. So I wanted to combine that story with Browning's."

Along with librettist Robert Sirman, Kudelka began fleshing out "The Contract," which shows the children of a rigidly moralistic town afflicted by a mysterious disorder. A stranger arrives, using her powers to cure the children, but is quickly shunned after her affair with a local man is revealed.

"This society [in the ballet] is so enclosed that it would be better for the children to leave—they themselves realize there's a lot of hypocrisy involved," said Kudelka.

"There really are societies that are becoming harsher and thinking they're above everybody else, and they are turning in on themselves," he said. "In the poem, there was rats, but we have an actual plague that harms the younger generation."

"As a child, I always wondered that—why wasn't the piper paid? I couldn't sort that out. But these are things you don't realize as a child; that people are so arrogant that they don't pay him simply because he's different." Kids know you have to pay the piper, even if adults don't.

Speaking of children, "The Contract" contains parts for 18 youngsters, in addition to an adult cast of 36 and a full orchestra. The National Ballet of Canada Orchestra will do



the honors, along with members of the Brooklyn Philharmonic.)

"I've always loved working with children," said Kudelka, "and the history of ballet has always had, in its large institutions, many young people working in theaters. But it's not very North American to do that. Also, our company isn't in a situation where we perform all year in an opera house: it's difficult with touring, so we do most works with children only in Toronto."

For Kudelka, bringing "The Contract" to BAM was a no-brainer.

"I had work performed in Brooklyn back in the '80s," he said. "This is the first time the National Ballet of Canada performs [at BAM] under my leadership; they were there in the '50s with some really interesting programs."

"BAM is a very important venue for me because of the other companies that perform there. I'm very proud of our programming, which allows us to bring different kinds of works here. I'd like those works to be seen in many other places, and if they're perfectly risky enough for BAM and other interesting festivals like Edinburgh and Paris, then that's important."

## Torke on the score

For his part, composer Michael Torke found it quite motivating to work on a piece



**Power of youth:** Choreographer James Kudelka (above left) was inspired by "The Pied Piper of Hamelin" and a 1980s scandal when creating The National Ballet of Canada's "The Contract" (top), which opens at the Brooklyn Academy of Music on April 5. The score, by Michael Torke (above right), will be performed by members of both the ballet's orchestra and the Brooklyn Philharmonic.



with a choreographer, librettist and others from the ballet company.

"Because it took seven years for this project, there was literally five years of meetings to discuss what we wanted to do," Torke explained by telephone from Albany, where he was overseeing a new recording. "After that, I sat down to write."

"I had about 30 ideas, anywhere from eight bars to a few minutes long, and I played them for everyone. I asked if the music meant any-

thing to anyone, and they all said 'No.' If I had said, 'Listen to this, it's a love theme,' they'd say 'OK.' So I learned to be more proactive."

Torke learned to compose differently on "The Contract."

"[The others] guided me, giving me the confidence and direction to write more in a certain way," said Torke. "Developing the score was a weird process. It was the first time I worked like that in dance, and I found it stimulating."

## CINEMA

# All for love

On April 5, the fifth annual Brooklyn Jewish Film Festival kicks off with the New York premiere of the French film "The Grand Role," directed by Slesu Suisa. Although this edition of the festival is titled "Stand Up and Laugh," there isn't much to laugh about in this movie about a Jewish actor, Maurice (Stephane Freiss), who auditions for the role of Shylock in a famous American director's Yiddish screen version of "The Merchant of Venice," but doesn't get to keep the part.



When the director (Peter Coyote) replaces him, Maurice doesn't have the heart to tell his ailing wife, Perla (Berenice Bejo, pictured), so he takes on the greatest role of his life, acting as though he is going to the set each day—in order to bring joy to his beloved wife. Despite the dark cloud (the lovely wife slipping away) that hangs over the action, the film still manages to be fairly fast-paced (especially for a French film!), and even turns into a buddy movie as Maurice's pals aid him in his subterfuge, doubling as his chauffeurs, journalists and costume designers.

What pulls the film back from the edge of being easily dismissed silliness is the truly heartbreaking, memorable performances of Freiss and Bejo whose love endures the plot's twists and turns.

Also showing on April 5 is the short film "Advice and Dissent," featuring Eli Wallach as a rabbi. Wallach is expected to attend the screening and the opening night reception that follows. The festival, which continues through April 10, takes place at BAMcinematek (30 Lafayette Ave., at Ashland Place in Fort Greene). Tickets are \$10. For more information, call (718) 636-4100 or visit the Web site at www.bham.org.

—Lisa J. Curtis

## DINING

# Seder sippers

Does dry, sophisticated wine for Passover seem like an oxymoron? It might if a glass of syrupy sweet Manischewitz accompanied your matzoh balls and brisket on the Seder table. On Sunday, April 3, from 5 pm to 7 pm, the Park Slope Jewish Center is hosting the Second Annual Passover Wine Festival, and no, Manischewitz isn't invited.

Instead, you'll find a sampling of the best bottles from international kosher wineries (including Italian Barbara d'Asti), French Bordeaux and Burgundies, chardonnays from Australia and Hungarian dessert wines. After a few sips, you should be loose enough to dance to the evening's musical "Wining by Klezmer," performed by the duo Annette Ezekiel on accordion and Jeremy Brown on violin.

Patty Lennarz, the owner of Slope Cellars in Park Slope, will give a short presentation on kosher wines and wine pairing. Like what you try? Bottles will be available for approximately \$9-\$30.

Swap the syrupy stuff for something worthy of your Seder table and even Elijah will thank you.

The Park Slope Jewish Center is located at 1320 Eighth Ave., at 14th Street. Admission is \$10 for center members, \$15 non-members. For more information, call (718) 768-1453. —Tina Barry

## MUSIC

# Folk for justice

Award-winning social activist singer-songwriters Pat Humphries & Sandy O will perform in a combination fundraiser and celebration of social justice at the First Unitarian Congregational Society in Brooklyn Heights on Friday, April 8.

The duo have been compared to Peter and Woody Guthrie. Their song, "If I Give Your Name," about undocumented workers killed on 9-11, won Grand Prize in the Folk category of the John Lennon Songwriting Competition.

Doors open at 8 pm on April 8. The concert will be held in the chapel of the First Unitarian Church, located at the corner of Monroe Place and Pierrepont Street. Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$7 children 13 and younger; sold on a first-come, first-served basis. For more information, call (718) 624-5466. —Paulanne Simmons

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For class schedule, registration, scholarship, and high school work-study information, please call (718) 501-6230 or visit [www.brooklynmuseum.org](http://www.brooklynmuseum.org)

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**Brooklyn Friends of Chamber Music**  
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**The Bouts Ensemble**  
Charles Brink, flute; Florian Druet and Monica Wainman, violins; Justin Trep, viola; Mercedes Ruiz, cello; Sebastian d'Hert, harpsichord  
with **Stephanie Houtzeel**  
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2 violins and basso continuo  
Trio sonata in C ..... JOHANN GOTTFRIED GOLDBERG  
for 2 violins and basso continuo  
Cantata *Armida abbandonata* ..... GEORG FRIEDRICH HANDEL  
for soprano, 2 violins and basso continuo  
Sonata in E minor ..... WILHELM FRIEDRICH BACH  
for flute and basso continuo  
Cantata *Non sa che sia dolore* ..... JOHANN SEBASTIAN BACH  
BWV 209, for soprano, flute, string and basso continuo

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# BROOKLYN

Neighborhood  
Dining Guide

## This week: BROOKLYN HEIGHTS

### Centro

116 Montague St. at Hicks Street, (718) 625-1010  
(AmEx, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$11.95-\$21.95

Designed in contemporary fashion by architect Larry Bogdanow, Centro is a casual restaurant serving Italian Mediterranean cuisine in Brooklyn Heights. The dark, bare wood tables, a plasma screen television and LED lighting provide for a lively, modern atmosphere.

You cannot go to Centro without trying chef Vincent DiVietorio's muse pots, according to Joe Secondino, who co-owns the restaurant with Greg Markman. For seafood lovers, he recommends the seafood risotto, a deliciously inviting combination of shrimp, clams, mussels and calamari. If water creatures don't float your boat, the spinach ricotta ravioli with sautéed chicken combined with asparagus, artichoke hearts and gorgonzola cream sauce might be what you're looking for. Classic tiramisu with chocolate sauce and Grand Marnier mascarpone cheesecake are just two of the many house-made desserts on the menu.

If you're looking for nightlife in Brooklyn Heights, Centro offers a full bar that is open until midnight on Friday and Saturday and offers a happy hour on weekdays from 5 pm to 7 pm. Weekend brunch. Open daily for lunch and dinner.

### Chipotle Mexican Grill

185 Montague St. at Clinton Street, (718) 243-9109

www.chipotle.com (AmEx, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$5.95-\$6.75

Last August, the ever-popular Chipotle Mexican Grill chain unveiled a new, sleek restaurant in Brooklyn Heights. Although the menu is small, none of the choices will steer hungry Brooklynites wrong. The huge, customer-friendly burritos, made right before your eyes, are overfilled with your choice of meats and/or vegetables, rice, beans and condiments. There is even a fella burrito with peppers and onions. Chipotle's guacamole is made fresh throughout the day. Margaritas and beer are also available. Open 11 am to 10 pm daily.

### Heights Cafe

84 Montague St. at Hicks Street, (718) 625-5555  
(AmEx) Entrees: \$13.95-\$18.95

"Approaching our 10th anniversary, we're the most popular restaurant in the Heights," said co-owner Greg Markman, who also owns Centro down the street with his partner, Joe Secondino. The corner restaurant with cherry wood tables and glass doors designed by award-winning architect, Larry Bogdanow — has a casual, California feel and, Markman claims, "is the largest outdoor cafe in Brooklyn Heights."

The cafe offers daily seafood specialties (\$13.95-\$17.95). The crab cakes entree is served with a black pepper-coriander dressing, pickled vegetable salad and wild grain cake. If you're not a fan of seafood, do not fret, the pan-roasted chicken that comes with a corn-dill-olive oil onion sauce, potato puree and sautéed spinach is just one of many non-fish options. For dessert, try the Mississippi mud pie or the caramelized banana Napoleon. Weekend brunch offered. Open for lunch and dinner daily.

### Kapadokya

142 Montague St. at Henry Street, (718) 875-2211 (AmEx, Disc, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$11.50-\$19.95

The Turkish restaurant Kapadokya is a thrilling change of pace for lunch or dinner on Montague Street. Take in the antique, imported decor and furnishings, some as old as 150 years. The staff dresses in elaborate costumes, enhancing the feeling that you're no longer in Brooklyn. And have you ever smoked a hookah, a la the caterpillar in Alice in Wonderland? During the summer, the bar offers dinner patrons a hookah-full of flavored tobacco for \$12.95, to be smoked à la fresco on the patio.

The food is Middle Eastern in style, with smoked and sweet flavors that make the chicken, beef, lamb and vegetable dishes distinctly Turkish. Top off your meal with baklava and a famous Turkish coffee, a tiny cup of rich, thick, bitter java. Enjoy the belly dancing on Friday and Saturday nights. Open daily for lunch and dinner.

★ = Full review available at

**Brooklyn  
Papers.com**

Abbreviation Key: AmEx= American Express, DC= Diner's Club, Disc= Discover Card, MC= MasterCard, Visa= Visa Card



Kapadokya restaurant serves Turkish cuisine with a view over Montague Street.

### Lichee Nut

162 Montague St. at Clinton Street, downstairs, (718) 522-5345 (AmEx, DC, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$6.50-\$12.95

This Brooklyn Heights Chinese restaurant has had several locations, owners and chefs, but throughout has maintained the high quality that has kept customers coming back for more than 20 years. Owner Jerry Shen has dedicated himself to keeping the restaurant's fare authentic. Chef Eric Wu cooks in both Szechuan and Cantonese styles and prepares a broad spectrum of dishes. The house special is a generous plate of jumbo shrimp sautéed with Chinese vegetables and lichee nuts — which, by the way, are not nuts at all, but actually large seeds containing sweet and succulent fruit. Open Monday through Saturday (for lunch and dinner) and Sunday from 2 pm to 10 pm.

### Pig-N-Out

60 Henry St. at Orange Street, (718) 522-5547  
(718) 525-5329 (AmEx, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$6.75-\$19.50

Roderick Marino brings barbecue to Brooklyn Heights with Pig-N-Out, offering everything one could want from a grill, from St. Louis-style baby back ribs to good ol' hot dogs. Choose from appetizers such as Aubrey's mac & cheese and BBQ buffalo bean chili. All smoked meats come with your choice of two sides and you can pick your own barbecue sauce from a list of six. Additional choices include the barbecue brisket, spiced Maryland ham marinated in pineapple juice with honey and cayenne pepper, or tangy Carolina pulled pork marinated in apple cider vinegar, ancho chili, and cumarin and garlic. Open daily for lunch and dinner.

### Samurai Sam's

115 Court St. at State Street, (718) 246-2830  
Entrees: \$4.50-\$6.75

Try one of Sam's specialties, the "yaki soba" (wok-stirred noodles and fresh grilled vegetable) or teriyaki skewers (includes two skewers of grilled shrimp served on a bed of rice, plus a salad). Appetizers include the grilled egg rolls and cucumber rolls. Chicken, steak or vegetarian teriyaki wraps are served with rice, green pepper, onion, cabbage and zucchini, wrapped in a fresh flour tortilla, and served in Samurai Sam's "famous" teriyaki sauce. Party trays are also available. Open Monday through Saturday for lunch and dinner. Closed Sundays.

### Teresa's

80 Montague St. at Hicks Street, (718) 797-3996  
(Disc, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$7.95-\$16.95

Sip a beer or cocktail while you look over Teresa's menu of Polish and American specialties, like pierogies filled with spinach, cheese, potato, meat or sausage, either fried or boiled. Delicious cheese and plum butter blintzes, and incredible apple fritters await you as well. Enjoy classics like Polish kielbasa, veal goulash, stuffed cabbage or peppers in tomato sauce or beef stroganoff. For dessert? Choose from many homemade pies and cakes, or go for an ice cream soda from the fountain. Open daily.

### Tutt Cafe

47 Hicks St. at Cranberry Street, (718) 722-7777  
(Cash only) Entrees: \$1-\$9

This Middle Eastern restaurant features specialty "pizzas" (stuffed pita, served in a pizza-like fashion) ranging from chicken to "lamborgim," a Middle Eastern lamb pizza. They also serve many different kinds of salads, spinach and cheese pita and sandwiches, and spicy lamb sausage. Desserts include "basbousa" (semolina cake with honey and yogurt) and craggy baklava. Open daily for lunch and dinner.

Editor's note: These are a sampling of restaurants in the neighborhood. The list rotates, and it is not comprehensive. For more restaurants, go to [www.brooklynpapers.com](http://www.brooklynpapers.com) on the Web. If your restaurant is not listed and you would like it to be, please contact GO Brooklyn Editor Lisa Curtis via email at [Curtis@BrooklynPapers.com](mailto:Curtis@BrooklynPapers.com).



# Reclining and dining

Soda Lounge serves up a wide variety of beers and cocktails, with comfort food on the side

By Tina Barry  
for The Brooklyn Papers

Soda Lounge reminded me of guys I once knew. I'd meet them in bars or at parties and think, "No."

A couple of drinks later, and I'd wonder why I hadn't noticed how attractive they were, how witty and sexy. It took two cocktails, strong ones, for me to warm up to Soda Lounge. It's a dark cave of a space, lit sporadically with lamps and groups of voicive canes. The walls have been aged to brick peeks from beneath layers of plaster.

Owner Anatoly Dubinsky named the place after its former incarnation as a sundae and soda fountain.

Dubinsky, who opened Soda Bar in 2002 and the bar's annex, Soda Lounge, last November, is big on the red-and-white look. The long room has several seating areas with either a Jennifer Convent-style sofa or yard sale redo in the center paired with comfortable chairs. Ottomans thoughtfully accompany many of the chairs — a great idea when a guest can no longer sit up. The only tables are

## DINING

Soda Bar and Soda Lounge (629 Vanderbilt Ave. between St. Marks Avenue and Prospect Place in Prospect Heights) accepts American Express, Diner's Club, MasterCard and Visa. Entrees: \$3.50-\$8.50. The bar is open until 3 am on weekdays and closes at 2 am on Saturday and 4 am on Sunday. Dishes are available until 1 am on weekdays and until 2 am on weekends. For information call (718) 220-8593.

knee-high ones, meant to rest your cocktail and food basket — baskets trump dishes at Soda Lounge. On the brutally cold evening I visited, the room was slow to warm up. One couple huddled in front of the lounge's focal point — a fake fireplace, its phony logs crackling and emitting cartoon like waves of fire.

"Is that keeping you warm?" I asked, pretending to thaw my frozen hands over the flames. Either they were too drunk to realize the fire wasn't real, knew and didn't care. Neither answered my question.



Casual corner: The emphasis is on relaxation at Soda Bar and Soda Lounge in Prospect Heights, which serves its entrees in baskets (above left). Focus your beer goggles with one of 15 brews on tap or a Vanderbilt martini (above).

In this atmosphere, drinks are important. There are 15 beers on tap. Lots of imported ales, stouts and microbrews and great cocktails like the "Vanderbilt," a potent, ice-cold martini made with lime juice that could make an hour with Paris Hilton palatable.

The food is bar grub — burgers, BLTs, fried fish & chips, onion rings and chicken wings — served diner-style in plastic baskets. In this setting, more ambitious fare would seem overreaching.

I wish the burger were better, though. It's a robust round of meat with a satisfying charcoal-grilled taste, and although it arrived medium rare, as ordered, it was too long to be juicy. Onion rings, so only they slid from my fingers, made up for the burger's lack of grease.

Soggy, battered fish came with good chips that were sliced into slivers, fried crisp and tasted like fresh potatoes.

Pierogies (Polish dumplings with different fillings) are the one novel addition to the roundup. We ordered them steamed, a mistake as they arrived forlornly wilted in a bowl. The pierogies with bacon and kasha stuffing were tastier than the potato and cheese. All are served with plastic cups of sour cream and applesauce straight from the jar.

There are no desserts. Yes, the food at Soda Bar and Soda Lounge is nothing special, but it's a matter. People come to hang out at the bar, play pool and unwind. Food is something that goes with the booze, not the other way around. After awhile, I started to like the place, too. The chair I sat on was cozy, and I liked having my feet on the ottoman while I chatted with my husband. Once the chill left the room, we ate slowly, sipped our drinks, and eased into a relaxed couple of hours.

# Kiku blooms

Kiku means "chrysanthemum" in Japanese, which may explain the restaurant's subtle pale green and cool gray color scheme and its quiet, Zen-like ambience. Walk through the door and soft-voiced waitresses lead you to a banquet with the grace of geishas.

Open since September, on Fifth Avenue in Park Slope, Kiku offers a lunch special that gives diners a lot of bang for the buck: \$7 or \$8 (depending on the sushi chosen), buys you a bowl of excellent miso soup or a green salad with a sprightly ginger dressing, followed by two kinds of sushi (the white salmon is pure velvet), an elegant Japanese-style egg roll and a pile of crisp, salty "eda mame" (fresh soybeans in the pod) beautifully arranged on a long oval plate.

For dinner, chef Wen Zhuo offers classic plates of sushi (the Kiku wasabi roll special with salmon, cucumber and three kinds of rice is at left) and sashimi as well as entrees like Chilean sea bass with miso glaze.

Kiku (177 Fifth Ave. between Berkeley Street and Lincoln Place) accepts American Express, Discover, MasterCard and Visa. Entrees: \$13-\$18. The restaurant serves lunch and dinner daily. For more information, call (718) 638-3366.

— Tina Barry

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# Where to GO

SAT, APRIL 2

## OUTDOORS AND TOURS

**BAY RIDGE WALK:** Brooklyn Center for the Urban Environment takes a walk through the southern part of Bay Ridge. Take in waterfront vistas and streets rich in history. 11 a.m., \$9 members, \$8 seniors and students. 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Meet at Fourth Avenue and 86th Street, street level of the R train. (718) 788-8500.

## PERFORMANCE

**BCBC:** Brooklyn Center for the Performing Arts presents *Symphony and Sauer's "Circo Comedia,"* a one-act circus in the tradition of Cirque du Soleil. 2 p.m. Walt Whitman Theater, Brooklyn College, one block from the intersection of Flatbush and Nostrand avenues. Call for ticket info. (718) 951-4500.

**BARGE MUSIC:** Classical music concert features a program of Wolf, Verdi and Giannini. 5:30 p.m. Fulton Ferry Landing. (718) 624-2083.

**BAM:** Brooklyn Academy of Music and Brooklyn Philharmonic present the dance-theater work "Play Without Words," directed by Matthew Bourne. 5:25 to 9:15 p.m. BAM. (718) 636-4111.

**DOO-WOP SHOW:** Kingsborough Community College hosts a show featuring Kenny Vance and the Flancones, Emil Sucko and the Flancones, Frankie Lynn's Legendary Teenagers and others. 8:30 to 10 p.m. Goldstein Performing Arts Center, 2001 Central Blvd. (718) 891-5092.

**ST. ANN'S WAREHOUSE:** The Wooster Group's "House/Lights," from Gertrude Stein's "Doctor Faustus Lights the Lights." 5:30 p.m. 38 Water St. (718) 554-0779.

**BRICK THEATER:** presents "Big Top Machine," featuring acting, life-sized puppets and theater. 5:30 p.m. 575 Metropolitan Ave. (718) 907-3457.

**CONCERT:** Brooklyn Philharmonic Orchestra, 55 p.m. Old First Reformed Church, Seventh Avenue and Carroll Street. (718) 625-3300.

**FIRST WEEKEND:** Brooklyn Arts Exchange hosts a new series of readings and discussion series with Karen Bernad, Wendy Blum and Ushara B. 5:15 p.m. 510 members, \$8 low-income. 5 p.m. 421 Fifth Ave. (718) 832-0018.

## CHILDREN

**BROOKLYN MUSEUM:** Art, story and art hour for kids, presents "20/30," 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Also, a new series and presents "Reynolds," with Peter Reynolds, 4 p.m. \$6, \$3 seniors and students, free for members and children younger than age 12. 200 Eastern Parkway. (718) 638-5000.

**PUPPETWORKS:** adventure story "Around the World in 80 Days." 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. 2:30 p.m. 338 South Ave. Reservations suggested. (718) 555-0179.

## OTHER

**RECEPTION:** Object Gallery presents work by Gregory Paquette. 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. 91 Fifth Ave. (718) 623-3300.

**GARDENING TALK:** Floyd Bennett Gardens Association hosts the talk "Square Foot Gardening and Irrigation." 2 p.m. The Ryan Visitor Center, Floyd Bennett Field. (718) 338-3799.

**ARTIST TALK:** Gwendolyn Redfield talks about her paintings. 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Clinton Hill Art Gallery, 154A Vanderbilt Ave. (718) 652-0227. Free.

**BAMCINEMATEK:** presents "Who's Afraid of Mike Nichols?" Today. "Carnal Knowledge" (1971). \$10, \$7 students, \$6 members. 2 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. 6:30 p.m. and 9:15 p.m. 30 Lafayette Ave. (718) 634-4100.

**CURATOR TALK:** co-curator Franklin Simons discusses his book themes in "Bargain." \$8, \$4 students and seniors, free for members. 2 p.m. Brooklyn Museum, 200 Eastern Parkway. (718) 638-5000.

**FIRST SATURDAY:** Brooklyn Museum monthly event featuring art and entertainment. Today, "Leaves of Grass at 150," celebrates the 150th anniversary of Walt Whitman's work. Also, stepping workshop for girls, ages 9 and older. 5 p.m. to 5:45 p.m. Family, 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. 6:30 p.m. to 11 p.m. 200 Eastern Parkway. (718) 638-5000. Free.

**RECEPTION:** Balen's Gallery presents new paintings by John Anuska. 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. 142 Court St. (718) 858-2189. Free.

**MICRO MUSEUM:** paintings by Cuban artist Sandro Guerra Garcia. 6 p.m. to 12:30 p.m. (718) 997-3116.

## SUN, APRIL 3

### OUTDOORS AND TOURS

**GREEN-WOOD CEMETERY:** tour "Baseball Legends of Brooklyn's Green-Wood Cemetery" presents its relation to baseball's early history. \$10, \$5 members. 1 p.m. Meet at main entrance, Fifth Avenue and 56th Street. (718) 768-7300.

**NY LIKE A NATIVE:** take a tour of Williamsburg. \$18 includes gallery admission. 2:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. Call for meeting place. (718) 392-7537.

**FORTHYTH DAY:** Brooklyn Botanic Garden hosts an award ceremony to recognize community leaders. This year's award recipients are David Green, Daniel Glickman and Simon Gluckson. Call for time and ticket info. Garden is open from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. 1000 Washington Ave. (718) 623-7200.

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Compiled by Susan Rosenthal



Reed Farrel Coleman, author of "The James Deans," and others will read from their works at Sunnys in Red Hook on April 3.

## PERFORMANCE

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**BAMCINEMATEK:** presents "Who's Afraid of Mike Nichols?" Today. "Carnal Knowledge" (1971). \$10, \$7 students, \$6 members. 2 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. 6:30 p.m. and 9:15 p.m. 30 Lafayette Ave. (718) 634-4100.

**CURATOR TALK:** co-curator Franklin Simons discusses his book themes in "Bargain." \$8, \$4 students and seniors, free for members. 2 p.m. Brooklyn Museum, 200 Eastern Parkway. (718) 638-5000.

**FIRST SATURDAY:** Brooklyn Museum monthly event featuring art and entertainment. Today, "Leaves of Grass at 150," celebrates the 150th anniversary of Walt Whitman's work. Also, stepping workshop for girls, ages 9 and older. 5 p.m. to 5:45 p.m. Family, 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. 6:30 p.m. to 11 p.m. 200 Eastern Parkway. (718) 638-5000. Free.

**RECEPTION:** Balen's Gallery presents new paintings by John Anuska. 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. 142 Court St. (718) 858-2189. Free.

**MICRO MUSEUM:** paintings by Cuban artist Sandro Guerra Garcia. 6 p.m. to 12:30 p.m. (718) 997-3116.

## SUN, APRIL 3

### OUTDOORS AND TOURS

**GREEN-WOOD CEMETERY:** tour "Baseball Legends of Brooklyn's Green-Wood Cemetery" presents its relation to baseball's early history. \$10, \$5 members. 1 p.m. Meet at main entrance, Fifth Avenue and 56th Street. (718) 768-7300.

**NY LIKE A NATIVE:** take a tour of Williamsburg. \$18 includes gallery admission. 2:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. Call for meeting place. (718) 392-7537.

**FORTHYTH DAY:** Brooklyn Botanic Garden hosts an award ceremony to recognize community leaders. This year's award recipients are David Green, Daniel Glickman and Simon Gluckson. Call for time and ticket info. Garden is open from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. 1000 Washington Ave. (718) 623-7200.

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annual Brooklyn Jewish Film Festival. Today: "The Mad Adventures of Rabbi Jacob" (1973). \$10, \$7 students 25 and younger, seniors and children under age 12, \$6 members. 4:30 p.m. Also, "The Grand Rule" (2004). 7 p.m. 30 Lafayette Ave. (718) 634-4100.

**PAIN RELIEF:** Brooklyn Hospital Center offers a talk on interventional pain management. 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. 121 Oakdale Ave. (800) 920-3300. Free.

**LEGAL TALK:** Columbia Lawyers Association of Brooklyn hosts a dinner meeting. Guest speaker is Honorable Barbara Panepinto. Discussion on "For the Love of Money: The Creation and Enforcement of the Nagasaki Agreements." Other guests: 6 p.m. Rose Manor, 1100 66th St. Call for ticket info. (718) 875-0158.

**YOUTH PROGRAM:** Brooklyn Public Library, Central branch, presents poets Kyle Dargatz and Thomas Saylor. 7 p.m. Grand Army Plaza. (718) 230-2100. Free.

**BAM:** Brooklyn Academy of Music presents The National Ballet of Canada in "The Contract," a work loosely based on the ballet of the same name. \$20, \$40, \$40, \$70, 7:30 p.m. Howard Gilman Opera House, 30 Lafayette Ave. (718) 634-4100.

**READING:** PS 107 and Community Bookstore present a reading with Paul Auster and Sri Hushwadi. 7:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. 121 Oakdale Ave. (718) 634-4100.

**BARNES AND NOBLE:** presents a fiction writing workshop. 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Barnes and Noble, 30 Lafayette Ave. (718) 634-4100.

**POETRY PROJECT:** Park Slope Poetry Project presents Ben Gagliardi, live and open mic. \$5 donation. 7:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. St. John's, 203 Prospect Ave. (718) 598-4820.

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**POETRY PROJECT:** Park Slope Poetry



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This project is supported by Federal Library Services and Technology Act funds, awarded to The New York State Library by the Federal Institute of Museum and Library Services.

# Miniatures tragedies

Gallery Players stage comic skits based on Bard's works

By Paulanne Simmons  
for The Brooklyn Papers

In modern times it's become almost commonplace to reinterpret Shakespeare - switching gender, setting, order of scenes and more. But few renditions of Shakespeare come close to the chaos of Jess Winfield, Adam Long and Daniel Singer's "The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged)." The comedy (farce/parody/series of skits) first appeared at the Edinburgh Fringe festival 16 years ago and since then has become a cult classic. With the nine-year London run coming to an end, The Gallery Players have joyfully leaped into the breach with their own production this season, which plays through April 10.

Humor is a strange commodity. What will send one person into fits of laughter may leave another cold. So let it be with "The Complete Works of William Shakespeare."

The Gallery Players' production has excellent direction by Neal Free-

## THEATER

The Gallery Players production of "The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged)" plays through April 10, Thursday through Saturday at 8 pm and Sunday at 3 pm. Tickets are \$15, \$12 seniors and children under 12. The Gallery Players theater is located at 199 14th St., between Fourth and Fifth Avenues. For more information, call (718) 595-0547.

man and outstanding performances by the ensemble of three actors - Alex Domeky, Rob Seitelman and Patrick Toon, all of whose wonderful timing is only matched by their antic energy. It is these actors' tour de force performance and Freeman's unerring judgment in moving them around the stage that round the script (one may call it the loosely connected skits a script) into something more than what might be the brainchild of clever college sophomores thumbing their noses at establishment.

Winfield, Long and Singer of The



Love's labour's rejected: Rob Seitelman and Patrick Toon in a scene from The Gallery Players production of "The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged)."

Reduced Shakespeare Company, had a great idea. What could be more entertaining than to celebrate and have fun with Shakespeare by presenting all 37 plays (and take a swipe at the sources to boot) in 97 minutes? Of course there was the problem of what to do with the comedies, which are already funny and farcical. But under the pretext that the comedies are "not nearly as funny as the tragedies," the writing trio wraps them up in one mega-comedy that incorporates most of Shakespeare's comedic plots.

However, as the play progresses it becomes obvious that the real reason Winfield, Long and Singer could not deal with the comedies is that the writers use the very same techniques to create humor that Shakespeare uses - cross-dressing (Seitelman does a formidable job playing Juliet, Ophelia and a host of female parts), incompetent actors, off-color jokes and puns, visual gags and potty humor (all seen most notably in the Pyramus and Thisbe skit from "A Midsummer Night's Dream"). Only Shakespeare, with his magnificent

language and astute characterizations managed to go beyond these obvious crowd-pleasers to something worthy of our attention 400 years later. Anything Winfield, Long and Singer did to the comedies would be nothing more than gilding the lily.

Of course the playwrights do add their distinctive touch. Thus "Othello" is recited as rap; the histories become a football game; "Titus Andronicus" is turned into a television cooking show; and "Hamlet" is performed abbreviated and backwards.

There are some truly inspired moments in "The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged)" - when the play-within-a-play in Hamlet becomes a puppet show or when the audience helps interpret Hamlet as a battle between the id, the ego and the super ego.

But curiously, most of the humor in "The Complete Works of William Shakespeare" references popular culture and not Shakespeare or his times. In fact, even a basic knowledge of Shakespeare is not necessary to enjoy this show. The laughs are easy and obvious: an actor pretends to vomit, the spotlight falls on the wrong spot.

Is there anything wrong with this? Not really. Only this reviewer can't help wishing Winfield, Long and Singer, who obviously have a thorough knowledge of Shakespeare, delved a little deeper, worked a little harder and asked their audience to work a little harder. How much funnier this play might have been if the playwrights had looked for comedy in character and situation, as did Shakespeare, or at the very least produced one memorable line.

With this said, "The Complete Works of William Shakespeare" will probably be - once again - a hit. It is perfectly in tune with modern tastes. And if Shakespeare really was the hack literary historians say he was, perhaps with the Bards too. Go see it and judge for yourself.

## Where to GO...

Continued from page 9...

### SAT, APRIL 9

#### OUTDOORS AND TOURS

##### GREEN WOOD CEMETERY:

Learn about the museum, and its inhabitants, in Green Wood. 520 123rd St. Meet at main entrance at Fifth Avenue and 25th Street. Also, program to commemorate George

Cadlin, artist of American Indian portraits. 1 pm. Historic Chapel. (718) 768-7300. Free.

**NORTHERN EXPOSURE:** Brooklyn Public Library hosts a walking tour of Brooklyn Heights.

Francis Monahan, co-author of "Brooklyn: A Journey Through the City of Dreams," leads. 5:12

PM. Meet in front of 280 Cadman Plaza West. (718) 220-2465.

**SOUTHERN EXPOSURE:** Brooklyn Center for the Urban Environment hosts a walk around Park Slope South. \$11. 59 members, \$8 seniors and students. 2 pm to 4 pm. Meet at southeast corner of Prospect Park West and Third Street. (718) 788-8500.

**PERFORMANCE**

**BAM:** Brooklyn Academy of Music presents The National Ballet of Canada in "The Contract," a work loosely based on "The Pied Piper of Hamelin." \$20, \$40, \$60, \$70, 2 pm and 7:30 pm. Howard Gilman Opera House, 20 Lafayette Ave. (718) 636-4100.

**BARCUMUSIC:** All-Mendelssohn program. \$35. 7:30 pm. Fulton Ferry Landing. (718) 626-2053.

**MUSICAL:** Narrows Community Theater presents "Anything Goes." \$15, \$10 seniors and children. 8 pm. St. Patrick's Auditorium, 97th Street and Fourth Avenue. (718) 482-3173.

**DANCE:** Thread Dance Theater second annual. Brooklyn Dance

Sample, a showcase of Brooklyn-based companies, schools and choreographers. \$15. 8 pm. BRIC Studio 57, The Rockwell Place. (718) 633-5678.

**ST. ANN'S WAREHOUSE:** The Wonder Group's "House of Lights." \$37. 8 pm. 38 Water St. (718) 254-8779.

**WILLIAMSBURG ART CENTER:** presents an adaptation of Shakespeare's drama into Japanese Noh theater with "Noh-Opera Macbeth." \$15. 8 pm. 135 Broadway. (718) 466-7372.

**BBC:** Brooklyn Center for the Performing Arts presents Phila dance ensemble. \$30. 8 pm. Walk Hallman Hall, Brooklyn College, one block from intersection of Flatbush and Second Avenue. (718) 951-4500.

**BRICK THEATER:** presents "Lupercalia Oryx," a feminist play for chavunists. \$10. 8 pm. 575 Metropolitan Ave. (718) 907-3457.

**SIMON & JUDE PLAYERS:** Sh. Simon and Jude Players presents the musical, "Baby," a story about three couples in their 20s, 30s and 40s. \$15, \$12 children under 12 and seniors. 8 pm. 294 Ave. L. (718) 518-3028.

**CHILDREN**

**CIRCUS:** Universe Circus performs. Call for ticket info. Noon, 4:30 pm and 8 pm. Prospect Park, Waldman Park Lot. (212) 307-7171.

**PUPPETWORKS:** presents the children's story "Around the World in 80 Days." \$8, \$7 children under 12. 2:30 pm and 7:30 pm. 338 Sixth Ave. Reservations suggested. (718) 965-3391.

**IMPACT THEATER:** presents "Polly Process and the Perilous Fry Cook," a spin on the classic tale of "The Princess and the Pea." \$10 adults, \$7 children 12 and under. Free for

children 3 and under. 3 pm. 190 Underhill Ave. (718) 763-1348.

**WRITERS SERIES:** Kane St. Synagogue hosts a discussion of "The Merchant of Venice," by Shakespeare. Ron Rosenbaum, a New York Observer columnist and editor of "Those Who Forget the Past: The Question of Anti-Semitism," is guest speaker. 1:15 pm to 2:45 pm. 230 Kane St. (718) 875-1500. Free.

**LIBRARY EVENT:** Brooklyn Public Library presents "Music Off the Shelves: Leaves of Grass at 150." 1:30 pm at New Utrecht Public Library, 86th Street at Bay 17th Street; 4 pm Central branch, Grand Army Plaza. (718) 488-5913. Free.

**LIBRARY TALK:** Brooklyn Writers for Brooklyn Readers series presents novelist Kate Christ-

ensen. 2 pm. Brooklyn Public Library Central branch, Grand Army Plaza. (718) 230-2100. Free.

**READING:** Spiral Thought Magazine hosts a spoken word event. 6 pm to 8 pm. Shakespeare's Sister 270 Court St. (718) 832-2310. Free.

**BAMCINEMATEK:** presents the 18th annual Brooklyn Jewish Film Festival. Today, "Lenny" (1976). \$10. Also, "Mr. Saturday Night" (1992). 9:30 pm. Both films are preceded by live stand-up comedy. 30 Lafayette Ave. (718) 636-4100.

**LAS VEGAS NIGHT:** hosted by Engine Co. 201. \$30 includes food and beverage. No one under 21 will be permitted to enter. OLPH North Dame Hall, 60th Street and Sixth Avenue. Call for time. (718) 965-8201.

### SUN, APRIL 10

**NAKED BROOKLYN:** Watson Adventures Scavenger Hunts pursues riddles at the Brooklyn Museum. Learn about places that muddy turns up throughout history. \$20 includes museum admission. 2 pm to 4:30 pm. 200 Eastern Parkway. Call for reservations and for meeting location. (212) 726-1529.

**BBC:** Brooklyn Center for the Performing Arts concludes its L'Cham Series with Eleanor Reissa and Tish, featuring "Songs in the Key of Yiddish." \$30. 2 pm. Walk Whitman Theater, Brooklyn College, one block from the intersection of Flatbush and Nostrand avenues. (718) 951-4500.

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# Opening day

## Canarsie native's 'Willie Mays' on new indie label, vies for airplay

By Lisa J. Curtis  
GO Brooklyn Editor

A proud defender of the underdog, singer-songwriter Adam Stengel has recently donned the hat of record-label executive in the hopes of getting his own work and that of other musicians out into the pop music marketplace with his new label, 67 Records.

On a playing field dominated by corporate giants, Stengel, 37, feels there's strength in numbers, so the Brooklyn-native guitarist has harnessed the power of additional musicians to form a cooperative to market and distribute their respective CDs.

"Our hope is to reach out to all talented artists of all genres, to reach larger numbers of people than they could themselves," explains Stengel. "Independent artists don't have the marketing muscle of major labels, but if we band together, we can do it on a grassroots level."

"We're getting the word out that this label cares about music. Instead of the label paying patroy royalties to artists, the artists will pay 67 Records a royalty for some administrative and advertising costs. I don't know anyone else who's ever done that. We want to appeal to people who love music that is honest and has integrity. And we want to appeal to artists who, for not lack of talent, can't seem to get their music in front of an audience."

Although he hopes that new subscriber-based satellite radio stations may make a difference, Stengel feels his new label will be a vital tool to help diversify the "American Idol"-esque day glut.

"For a lot of men and women making CDs like [Stengel's] release 'The Last Day of Summer,' it's unlikely that they'll be heard because of the homogenization of the record industry," says Stengel.

"It's nearly impossible for indie artists to be heard or seen, and the people that are missing out are the general public, and it's a shame."

"The labels are only looking to sell stars. In 2005, if Bruce Springsteen sent a demo to a label, he probably wouldn't get signed. Today, it's a very different business. They're selling stars and personalities, not to Billy Joel or Bob Dylan in the '70s were anything but stars. They're selling personalities, and it takes more than one person to like your work, but that being said, I'm less concerned with sales than my desire for the music to touch people."

Stengel's "The Last Day of Summer" CD is in the tradition of the aforementioned genres, as well as Paul Simon, Tom Cochrane ("Life is a Highway"), Van Morrison, Lyle Lovett and Steve Earle.

Stengel says that what he enjoys most in a song is the story related by the lyrics.

"Then it's interesting to me," says Stengel. "I strive for catchy, infectious, memorable phrasing and lyrics. I want [my songs] to be pop music, not in a Britney Spears way, but like Buddy Holly, The Beatles or U2, popular artists that can reach people on a wide scale. You do want more than one person to like your work, but that being said, I'm less concerned with sales than my desire for the music to touch people."

Fitting for a true underdog, Stengel says that one of his favorite lines on his new CD "I was bound to let her down it was the one thing I was sure of" from his song "Chrissy." It's an example of the self-deprecating observations with which the listener can immediately identify, or at the very least, enjoy the inherent humor in. Similarly, most listeners can identify with the time they waited by the phone or allowed themselves to be manipulated by a lover in Stengel's angst-ridden "She Makes Me Wait." Conversely, the joyful abandon of "Chrissy" is just as contagious.

Although he was born in Canarsie and an image of the Brooklyn Bridge spans his CD's notes, the liner also includes images of and words describing wide-open country



Single to first: The first single from Adam Stengel's new album, "The Last Day of Summer," "Willie Mays," is out just in time for peanuts and Cracker Jacks.

roads, as Stengel was spreading his arms to embrace all of America, not just his local fans. Even the inspiration of his song "Willie Mays" was a center-fielder for both the San Francisco and New York Giants (before retiring as a New York Met).

This month, on the eve of opening day, that song won the

son heard his songs on the radio. If not, then there is something wrong with the music industry. Stengel's label released "Willie Mays" on Monday to over 500 radio stations, hoping to capitalize on opening day fever.

"It's very, very difficult to get played on the radio whether you're an independent or major label artist," says Stengel. "But we figured we needed to take a chance, 'swing the bat,' so to speak. Our team got together and determined that 'Willie Mays' is upbeat, and it has an uplifting and compelling story about a true hero. Hopefully that will translate into commercial appeal."

"We felt that with the anticipation for the new baseball season, this song's a natural. For some people, opening day is like a national holiday. We want to be a part of that excitement."

In addition to his own "The Last Day of Summer," Stengel hopes that 67 Records will be able to release at least one or two more albums this year.

"This year, we're releasing a couple of records, because we're still building," he said. "But the more the merrier. I don't care if it's 10 or 1,000. If we all like it, we'll put it out."

Stengel's "The Last Day of Summer" CD is available at [www.67records.com](http://www.67records.com) and [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com). For more information, visit [www.67records.com](http://www.67records.com).

grand prize in the eighth annual Cooch Music Amateur Song-writing Contest, run by an indie label and publishing company. According to Cooch Music President Joseph Cuccia, Stengel beat out 2,000 contestants to win the prize, which includes a new guitar and a slot on the "Buy Indie Music" compilation CD, which will be distributed to A&R reps and college radio stations, according to Cuccia.

"Adam Stengel's songs are at the top of the game, and he will make it in the industry," says Cuccia, who compared "Willie Mays" to songs by Dylan and Neil Young. "You will

see him on the radio. He's got the talent, the songwriting, the marketing, and the timing. He's got it all."

Stengel's "The Last Day of Summer" CD is in the tradition of the aforementioned genres, as well as Paul Simon, Tom Cochrane ("Life is a Highway"), Van Morrison, Lyle Lovett and Steve Earle.

Stengel says that what he enjoys most in a song is the story related by the lyrics. "Then it's interesting to me," says Stengel. "I strive for catchy, infectious, memorable phrasing and lyrics. I want [my songs] to be pop music, not in a Britney Spears way, but like Buddy Holly, The Beatles or U2, popular artists that can reach people on a wide scale. You do want more than one person to like your work, but that being said, I'm less concerned with sales than my desire for the music to touch people."

Fitting for a true underdog, Stengel says that one of his favorite lines on his new CD "I was bound to let her down it was the one thing I was sure of" from his song "Chrissy." It's an example of the self-deprecating observations with which the listener can immediately identify, or at the very least, enjoy the inherent humor in. Similarly, most listeners can identify with the time they waited by the phone or allowed themselves to be manipulated by a lover in Stengel's angst-ridden "She Makes Me Wait." Conversely, the joyful abandon of "Chrissy" is just as contagious.

Although he was born in Canarsie and an image of the Brooklyn Bridge spans his CD's notes, the liner also includes images of and words describing wide-open country

# BROOKLYN Nightlife

## The Backroom

(Inside Freddy's Bar, 484 Dean St. at Sixth Avenue in Prospect Heights, 718-622-7035, [www.backroomnyc.com](http://www.backroomnyc.com))  
April 2: Anitra Connection, 9:30 p.m. Moose, 10:30 p.m. DJ David, 11:30 p.m. FREE. April 3: DJ David, 11:30 p.m. FREE. April 4: Comedy Night, 9 p.m. FREE. April 5: Music from the New York Underground, 9 p.m. FREE. April 7: Old Time Jam, 9 p.m. FREE. April 8: Harry Nagel, 9:30 p.m. Bitter Root, 10:30 p.m. FREE.

## BAM Cafe

30 Lafayette Ave. at Ashland Place in Fort Greene, 718-634-4700, [www.bamcinematek.com](http://www.bamcinematek.com)  
April 2: "Too Cool for Shit," a tribute to Alicia Keys, 9 p.m. FREE. April 3: DJ David, 11:30 p.m. FREE. April 4: Comedy Night, 9 p.m. FREE. April 5: Music from the New York Underground, 9 p.m. FREE. April 7: Old Time Jam, 9 p.m. FREE. April 8: Harry Nagel, 9:30 p.m. Bitter Root, 10:30 p.m. FREE.

## Barbes

179 Ninth St. at South Avenue in Park Slope, 718-955-9177, [www.barbesnyc.com](http://www.barbesnyc.com)  
April 2: "Too Cool for Shit," a tribute to Alicia Keys, 9 p.m. FREE. April 3: DJ David, 11:30 p.m. FREE. April 4: Comedy Night, 9 p.m. FREE. April 5: Music from the New York Underground, 9 p.m. FREE. April 7: Old Time Jam, 9 p.m. FREE. April 8: Harry Nagel, 9:30 p.m. Bitter Root, 10:30 p.m. FREE.

## Bombe

815 5th St. at Barry Street in Williamsburg, 718-387-5389, [www.bombe.us](http://www.bombe.us)  
April 2: "Too Cool for Shit," a tribute to Alicia Keys, 9 p.m. FREE. April 3: DJ David, 11:30 p.m. FREE. April 4: Comedy Night, 9 p.m. FREE. April 5: Music from the New York Underground, 9 p.m. FREE. April 7: Old Time Jam, 9 p.m. FREE. April 8: Harry Nagel, 9:30 p.m. Bitter Root, 10:30 p.m. FREE.

## Black Betty

128 Piomonte St. at Clinton Street in Brooklyn Heights, 718-222-4111, [www.blackbetty.com](http://www.blackbetty.com)  
April 2: "Too Cool for Shit," a tribute to Alicia Keys, 9 p.m. FREE. April 3: DJ David, 11:30 p.m. FREE. April 4: Comedy Night, 9 p.m. FREE. April 5: Music from the New York Underground, 9 p.m. FREE. April 7: Old Time Jam, 9 p.m. FREE. April 8: Harry Nagel, 9:30 p.m. Bitter Root, 10:30 p.m. FREE.

## Brooklyn Historical Society

128 Piomonte St. at Clinton Street in Brooklyn Heights, 718-222-4111, [www.brooklynhistory.org](http://www.brooklynhistory.org)  
April 2: "Too Cool for Shit," a tribute to Alicia Keys, 9 p.m. FREE. April 3: DJ David, 11:30 p.m. FREE. April 4: Comedy Night, 9 p.m. FREE. April 5: Music from the New York Underground, 9 p.m. FREE. April 7: Old Time Jam, 9 p.m. FREE. April 8: Harry Nagel, 9:30 p.m. Bitter Root, 10:30 p.m. FREE.

## Cafe Steinhof

2079 Broadway Ave. at 44th Street in Park Slope, 718-389-7777, [www.cafesteinhof.com](http://www.cafesteinhof.com)  
April 2: "Too Cool for Shit," a tribute to Alicia Keys, 9 p.m. FREE. April 3: DJ David, 11:30 p.m. FREE. April 4: Comedy Night, 9 p.m. FREE. April 5: Music from the New York Underground, 9 p.m. FREE. April 7: Old Time Jam, 9 p.m. FREE. April 8: Harry Nagel, 9:30 p.m. Bitter Root, 10:30 p.m. FREE.

## Cornerstone Bar

1922 Coney Island Ave. at 149th Street in Flatbush, 718-940-9037  
April 2: "Too Cool for Shit," a tribute to Alicia Keys, 9 p.m. FREE. April 3: DJ David, 11:30 p.m. FREE. April 4: Comedy Night, 9 p.m. FREE. April 5: Music from the New York Underground, 9 p.m. FREE. April 7: Old Time Jam, 9 p.m. FREE. April 8: Harry Nagel, 9:30 p.m. Bitter Root, 10:30 p.m. FREE.

## Crossroads Saloon

2079 Broadway Ave. at 44th Street in Park Slope, 718-389-7777, [www.cafesteinhof.com](http://www.cafesteinhof.com)  
April 2: "Too Cool for Shit," a tribute to Alicia Keys, 9 p.m. FREE. April 3: DJ David, 11:30 p.m. FREE. April 4: Comedy Night, 9 p.m. FREE. April 5: Music from the New York Underground, 9 p.m. FREE. April 7: Old Time Jam, 9 p.m. FREE. April 8: Harry Nagel, 9:30 p.m. Bitter Root, 10:30 p.m. FREE.

## Elite Ark

179 Ninth St. at South Avenue in Park Slope, 718-955-9177, [www.barbesnyc.com](http://www.barbesnyc.com)  
April 2: "Too Cool for Shit," a tribute to Alicia Keys, 9 p.m. FREE. April 3: DJ David, 11:30 p.m. FREE. April 4: Comedy Night, 9 p.m. FREE. April 5: Music from the New York Underground, 9 p.m. FREE. April 7: Old Time Jam, 9 p.m. FREE. April 8: Harry Nagel, 9:30 p.m. Bitter Root, 10:30 p.m. FREE.

## Europa Night Club

188 Madison Ave. at Manhattan Avenue in Greenpoint, 718-388-6722, [www.europainyc.com](http://www.europainyc.com)  
April 2: "Too Cool for Shit," a tribute to Alicia Keys, 9 p.m. FREE. April 3: DJ David, 11:30 p.m. FREE. April 4: Comedy Night, 9 p.m. FREE. April 5: Music from the New York Underground, 9 p.m. FREE. April 7: Old Time Jam, 9 p.m. FREE. April 8: Harry Nagel, 9:30 p.m. Bitter Root, 10:30 p.m. FREE.

## Five Spot

459 Myrtle Ave. at Washington Avenue in Clinton Heights, 718-852-8800, [www.fivespotnyc.com](http://www.fivespotnyc.com)  
April 2: "Too Cool for Shit," a tribute to Alicia Keys, 9 p.m. FREE. April 3: DJ David, 11:30 p.m. FREE. April 4: Comedy Night, 9 p.m. FREE. April 5: Music from the New York Underground, 9 p.m. FREE. April 7: Old Time Jam, 9 p.m. FREE. April 8: Harry Nagel, 9:30 p.m. Bitter Root, 10:30 p.m. FREE.

## Frank's Lounge

660 Fulton St. at South Elbow Place in Fort Greene, 718-622-7035, [www.backroomnyc.com](http://www.backroomnyc.com)  
April 2: "Too Cool for Shit," a tribute to Alicia Keys, 9 p.m. FREE. April 3: DJ David, 11:30 p.m. FREE. April 4: Comedy Night, 9 p.m. FREE. April 5: Music from the New York Underground, 9 p.m. FREE. April 7: Old Time Jam, 9 p.m. FREE. April 8: Harry Nagel, 9:30 p.m. Bitter Root, 10:30 p.m. FREE.

## Galapagos

701 N. Sixth St. at Wythe Avenue in Williamsburg, 718-782-5188, [www.galapagosnyc.com](http://www.galapagosnyc.com)  
April 2: "Too Cool for Shit," a tribute to Alicia Keys, 9 p.m. FREE. April 3: DJ David, 11:30 p.m. FREE. April 4: Comedy Night, 9 p.m. FREE. April 5: Music from the New York Underground, 9 p.m. FREE. April 7: Old Time Jam, 9 p.m. FREE. April 8: Harry Nagel, 9:30 p.m. Bitter Root, 10:30 p.m. FREE.

## Good Coffeehouse Music Parlor

(At The Brooklyn Society for Ethical Culture) 53 Prospect Park West at Second Street in Park Slope, 718-768-9972, [www.brooklynmusicparlor.com](http://www.brooklynmusicparlor.com)  
April 2: "Too Cool for Shit," a tribute to Alicia Keys, 9 p.m. FREE. April 3: DJ David, 11:30 p.m. FREE. April 4: Comedy Night, 9 p.m. FREE. April 5: Music from the New York Underground, 9 p.m. FREE. April 7: Old Time Jam, 9 p.m. FREE. April 8: Harry Nagel, 9:30 p.m. Bitter Root, 10:30 p.m. FREE.

## The Hook

18 Commerce St. at Columbia Street in Red Hook, 718-797-3007, [www.thehooknyc.com](http://www.thehooknyc.com)  
April 2: "Too Cool for Shit," a tribute to Alicia Keys, 9 p.m. FREE. April 3: DJ David, 11:30 p.m. FREE. April 4: Comedy Night, 9 p.m. FREE. April 5: Music from the New York Underground, 9 p.m. FREE. April 7: Old Time Jam, 9 p.m. FREE. April 8: Harry Nagel, 9:30 p.m. Bitter Root, 10:30 p.m. FREE.

## Hope and Anchor

347 Van Brunt St. at Wolcott Street in Red Hook, 718-797-3007, [www.thehooknyc.com](http://www.thehooknyc.com)  
April 2: "Too Cool for Shit," a tribute to Alicia Keys, 9 p.m. FREE. April 3: DJ David, 11:30 p.m. FREE. April 4: Comedy Night, 9 p.m. FREE. April 5: Music from the New York Underground, 9 p.m. FREE. April 7: Old Time Jam, 9 p.m. FREE. April 8: Harry Nagel, 9:30 p.m. Bitter Root, 10:30 p.m. FREE.

## io Restaurant

119 Kent Ave. at North Seventh Street in Williamsburg, 718-388-3300, [www.iorestaurant.com](http://www.iorestaurant.com)  
April 2: "Too Cool for Shit," a tribute to Alicia Keys, 9 p.m. FREE. April 3: DJ David, 11:30 p.m. FREE. April 4: Comedy Night, 9 p.m. FREE. April 5: Music from the New York Underground, 9 p.m. FREE. April 7: Old Time Jam, 9 p.m. FREE. April 8: Harry Nagel, 9:30 p.m. Bitter Root, 10:30 p.m. FREE.

## Jazz 966

966 Fulton St. at Cambridge Place in Clinton Heights, 718-622-7035, [www.backroomnyc.com](http://www.backroomnyc.com)  
April 2: "Too Cool for Shit," a tribute to Alicia Keys, 9 p.m. FREE. April 3: DJ David, 11:30 p.m. FREE. April 4: Comedy Night, 9 p.m. FREE. April 5: Music from the New York Underground, 9 p.m. FREE. April 7: Old Time Jam, 9 p.m. FREE. April 8: Harry Nagel, 9:30 p.m. Bitter Root, 10:30 p.m. FREE.

## The Jazz Spot

179 Marcus Garvey Blvd. at Koozkoosko Street in Bedford-Stuyvesant, 718-622-7035, [www.backroomnyc.com](http://www.backroomnyc.com)  
April 2: "Too Cool for Shit," a tribute to Alicia Keys, 9 p.m. FREE. April 3: DJ David, 11:30 p.m. FREE. April 4: Comedy Night, 9 p.m. FREE. April 5: Music from the New York Underground, 9 p.m. FREE. April 7: Old Time Jam, 9 p.m. FREE. April 8: Harry Nagel, 9:30 p.m. Bitter Root, 10:30 p.m. FREE.

## Kill Bar-Cafe

41 1st St. at 1st Street in Red Hook, 718-852-8800, [www.fivespotnyc.com](http://www.fivespotnyc.com)  
April 2: "Too Cool for Shit," a tribute to Alicia Keys, 9 p.m. FREE. April 3: DJ David, 11:30 p.m. FREE. April 4: Comedy Night, 9 p.m. FREE. April 5: Music from the New York Underground, 9 p.m. FREE. April 7: Old Time Jam, 9 p.m. FREE. April 8: Harry Nagel, 9:30 p.m. Bitter Root, 10:30 p.m. FREE.

## Laila Lounge

119 Kent Ave. at North Seventh Street in Williamsburg, 718-388-3300, [www.iorestaurant.com](http://www.iorestaurant.com)  
April 2: "Too Cool for Shit," a tribute to Alicia Keys, 9 p.m. FREE. April 3: DJ David, 11:30 p.m. FREE. April 4: Comedy Night, 9 p.m. FREE. April 5: Music from the New York Underground, 9 p.m. FREE. April 7: Old Time Jam, 9 p.m. FREE. April 8: Harry Nagel, 9:30 p.m. Bitter Root, 10:30 p.m. FREE.

## Le Dakar Restaurant

282 Grand Ave. at Lafayette Avenue in Clinton Heights, 718-852-8800, [www.fivespotnyc.com](http://www.fivespotnyc.com)  
April 2: "Too Cool for Shit," a tribute to Alicia Keys, 9 p.m. FREE. April 3: DJ David, 11:30 p.m. FREE. April 4: Comedy Night, 9 p.m. FREE. April 5: Music from the New York Underground, 9 p.m. FREE. April 7: Old Time Jam, 9 p.m. FREE. April 8: Harry Nagel, 9:30 p.m. Bitter Root, 10:30 p.m. FREE.

## Les Babouches

782 Third Ave. at 78th Street in Bay Ridge, 718-852-8800, [www.fivespotnyc.com](http://www.fivespotnyc.com)  
April 2: "Too Cool for Shit," a tribute to Alicia Keys, 9 p.m. FREE. April 3: DJ David, 11:30 p.m. FREE. April 4: Comedy Night, 9 p.m. FREE. April 5: Music from the New York Underground, 9 p.m. FREE. April 7: Old Time Jam, 9 p.m. FREE. April 8: Harry Nagel, 9:30 p.m. Bitter Root, 10:30 p.m. FREE.

## Liberty Heights Tap Room

34 Kent Ave. at North Seventh Street in Williamsburg, 718-388-3300, [www.iorestaurant.com](http://www.iorestaurant.com)  
April 2: "Too Cool for Shit," a tribute to Alicia Keys, 9 p.m. FREE. April 3: DJ David, 11:30 p.m. FREE. April 4: Comedy Night, 9 p.m. FREE. April 5: Music from the New York Underground, 9 p.m. FREE. April 7: Old Time Jam, 9 p.m. FREE. April 8: Harry Nagel, 9:30 p.m. Bitter Root, 10:30 p.m. FREE.

## Life Cafe 983

983 Flushing Ave. at Central Avenue in Bushwick, 718-386-1123, [www.lifeecafe.com](http://www.lifeecafe.com)  
April 2: "Too Cool for Shit," a tribute to Alicia Keys, 9 p.m. FREE. April 3: DJ David, 11:30 p.m. FREE. April 4: Comedy Night, 9 p.m. FREE. April 5: Music from the New York Underground, 9 p.m. FREE. April 7: Old Time Jam, 9 p.m. FREE. April 8: Harry Nagel, 9:30 p.m. Bitter Root, 10:30 p.m. FREE.

## The Lucky Cat

245 Grand St. at Roosting Street in Williamsburg, 718-388-3300, [www.iorestaurant.com](http://www.iorestaurant.com)  
April 2: "Too Cool for Shit," a tribute to Alicia Keys, 9 p.m. FREE. April 3: DJ David, 11:30 p.m. FREE. April 4: Comedy Night, 9 p.m. FREE. April 5: Music from the New York Underground, 9 p.m. FREE. April 7: Old Time Jam, 9 p.m. FREE. April 8: Harry Nagel, 9:30 p.m. Bitter Root, 10:30 p.m. FREE.



Wanna B U2: Unforgettable Fire will pay tribute to U2's Bonno (above) with their April 9 concert at Peggy O'Neills in Bay Ridge.

## Magnetic Field

97 Atlantic Ave. at Henry Street in Brooklyn Heights, 718-834-0000, [www.magneticfieldnyc.com](http://www.magneticfieldnyc.com)  
April 2: "Too Cool for Shit," a tribute to Alicia Keys, 9 p.m. FREE. April 3: DJ David, 11:30 p.m. FREE. April 4: Comedy Night, 9 p.m. FREE. April 5: Music from the New York Underground, 9 p.m. FREE. April 7: Old Time Jam, 9 p.m. FREE. April 8: Harry Nagel, 9:30 p.m. Bitter Root, 10:30 p.m. FREE.

## M Shanghai Bistro

129 Hester St. at Grand Street in Williamsburg, 718-388-3300, [www.mshanghaibistro.com](http://www.mshanghaibistro.com)  
April 2: "Too Cool for Shit," a tribute to Alicia Keys, 9 p.m. FREE. April 3: DJ David, 11:30 p.m. FREE. April 4: Comedy Night, 9 p.m. FREE. April 5: Music from the New York Underground, 9 p.m. FREE. April 7: Old Time Jam, 9 p.m. FREE. April 8: Harry Nagel, 9:30 p.m. Bitter Root, 10:30 p.m. FREE.

## National Restaurant

273 Brighton Beach Ave. at Brighton Second Street in Brighton Beach, 718-444-1222, [www.nationalrestaurant.com](http://www.nationalrestaurant.com)  
April 2: "Too Cool for Shit," a tribute to Alicia Keys, 9 p.m. FREE. April 3: DJ David, 11:30 p.m. FREE. April 4: Comedy Night, 9 p.m. FREE. April 5: Music from the New York Underground, 9 p.m. FREE. April 7: Old Time Jam, 9 p.m. FREE. April 8: Harry Nagel, 9:30 p.m. Bitter Root, 10:30 p.m. FREE.

## Night of the Cookers

767 Fulton St. at South Portland Avenue in Fort Greene, 718-622-7035, [www.backroomnyc.com](http://www.backroomnyc.com)  
April 2: "Too Cool for Shit," a tribute to Alicia Keys, 9 p.m. FREE. April 3: DJ David, 11:30 p.m. FREE. April 4: Comedy Night, 9 p.m. FREE. April 5: Music from the New York Underground, 9 p.m. FREE. April 7: Old Time Jam, 9 p.m. FREE. April 8: Harry Nagel, 9:30 p.m. Bitter Root, 10:30 p.m. FREE.

## Northrix

66 N. Sixth St. at Wythe Avenue in Williamsburg, 718-388-3300, [www.iorestaurant.com](http://www.iorestaurant.com)  
April 2: "Too Cool for Shit," a tribute to Alicia Keys, 9 p.m. FREE. April 3: DJ David, 11:30 p.m. FREE. April 4: Comedy Night, 9 p.m. FREE. April 5: Music from the New York Underground, 9 p.m. FREE. April 7: Old Time Jam, 9 p.m. FREE. April 8: Harry Nagel, 9:30 p.m. Bitter Root, 10:30 p.m. FREE.

## Parlor Jazz

119 Vanderbilt Ave. at Myrtle Avenue in Clinton Heights, 718-852-8800, [www.fivespotnyc.com](http://www.fivespotnyc.com)  
April 2: "Too Cool for Shit," a tribute to Alicia Keys, 9 p.m. FREE. April 3: DJ David, 11:30 p.m. FREE. April 4: Comedy Night, 9 p.m. FREE. April 5: Music from the New York Underground, 9 p.m. FREE. April 7: Old Time Jam, 9 p.m. FREE. April 8: Harry Nagel, 9:30 p.m. Bitter Root, 10:30 p.m. FREE.

## Peaches & Cream Cafe

424 Myrtle Ave. at Myrtle Avenue in Clinton Heights, 718-852-8800, [www.fivespotnyc.com](http://www.fivespotnyc.com)  
April 2: "Too Cool for Shit," a tribute to Alicia Keys, 9 p.m. FREE. April 3: DJ David, 11:30 p.m. FREE. April 4: Comedy Night, 9 p.m. FREE. April 5: Music from the New York Underground, 9 p.m. FREE. April 7: Old Time Jam, 9 p.m. FREE. April 8: Harry Nagel, 9:30 p.m. Bitter Root, 10:30 p.m. FREE.

## Peggy O'Neills

8123 Fifth Ave. at 81st Street in Bay Ridge, 718-768-4000, [www.peggyoneills.com](http://www.peggyoneills.com)  
April 2: "Too Cool for Shit," a tribute to Alicia Keys, 9 p.m. FREE. April 3: DJ David, 11:30 p.m. FREE. April 4: Comedy Night, 9 p.m. FREE. April 5: Music from the New York Underground, 9 p.m. FREE. April 7: Old Time Jam, 9 p.m. FREE. April 8: Harry Nagel, 9:30 p.m. Bitter Root, 10:30 p.m. FREE.

## TALK TO US...

To list your events in Brooklyn Nightlife, please give us as much notice as possible, include name of venue, address with cross street, phone number for the public at large. Web site address, dates, times and admission or ticket prices. Send listings and color photos of performers via email to [nightlifedeb@brooklynpapers.com](mailto:nightlifedeb@brooklynpapers.com) or via fax at (718) 634-0272. Listings are free and printed on a space available basis. We regret we cannot take listings over the phone.



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## holistic resources guide

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To the editor:

When Bruce Ratner builds anything, three elements are always present. They are there whether it is a mall in Queens or a multi-use mega tower in lower Manhattan, or a birdhouse for his family. These are:

1. Ratner always pitches the idea on the grounds that jobs, housing and enlightenment will flourish in the blighted ground that once was plagued, polluted, wasted, and doomed.

2. Frank Gehry.

3. A massive investment of public funds coupled with private speculation. The entire financial edifice always becomes as slippery as Stanley of a pile of glossy, fashion magazines. In fact, you always see investors and clients running away before the towering mess falls on them.

Frank Gehry is the darling of architectural fashion at the moment. He seems happy to oblige and pose for the camera when Forest City Ratner Companies summons him. That dome, he scampers home to work on his house.

Surely, however, Mr. Gehry must pause at the aesthetic atrocities that Ratner finally builds. Are we to believe that an architectural genius approved the new mall at Flatbush and Atlantic? Has god old Frank seen that thing?

It is amazing that anyone built the original Atlantic Center, which Mr. Ratner freely admits was a disaster "before its time."

Now I suppose it would be a much more effective disaster. How could he and why would he create this new com-

plex? It is an homage to mall design suitable to a destitute west Texas suburb.

The building doesn't even have a front door. It is a dark inside, gloomy, and reeks of cooking grease from McDonald's. The brick outside seems chosen to appear permanently coated in grime. The overall structure is a shapeless muddle.

Is this some post-modern ironic statement of anti-hierarchical whimsy, or did Ratner just Xerox the blueprints from some dump he never finished in Miami?

All of that would be commonplace bad judgment if the scale and frequency of Ratner's disasters were not so overwhelming. He let us have any borough un-scared?

Why is this man encouraged by his Republican chums and politicians like various mayors and the governor to keep doing this to our city? FCRC has a dubious record at best of delivering what they claim they are going to build. Is no one at City Hall or in Albany minding the vault?

Why do they keep giving him massive tax breaks and low-interest loans on the public cuff when the city and state are in such dire financial condition? "Liberty" loans to rebuild after 9-11? Why does Ratner rate these disproportionate public subsidies?

In Brooklyn, he proposes even to dodge the sales tax on the arena building materials. What about him or his project merits that? Why don't we offer that to all developers in the borough?

Because, friends, we can't

## CANDY...

Continued from page 1

can be seen from all sides of the block, and contributes to the open space in the neighborhood." Wiley read from Velazquez's statement. The congressman's district includes Brooklyn Heights.

Avis Allman, an artist who lived in the lofts from 1977 until her eviction in late December, said that although the garden wasn't public, it was used as such.

"Yes, technically it was not a public space," she said, but added, "I think all of us as artists felt we had to answer to the people who helped allow us to stay there." She said the largely asphalt-covered open space became the site of "at least four or five significant [art] shows" in her time there.

Several speakers reiterated that point, especially those in adjacent buildings, but Orie Pearsall, a preservationist and Brooklyn Heights resident, spoke about the precedent that might be set by demolition of the open space, which is part of the Brooklyn Heights Historic District.

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## LETTERS

afford it, and the other development doesn't have Bruce's pull.

Has Ratner contracted for any of the benefits he is again claiming he will deliver?

Last year, one of his hacks sent around brochures telling us we were about to find the Garden of Eden located in the Atlantic Yards. They were surprised and dismayed that the people of Brooklyn had some doubts.

We can live without the Garden of Eden, especially if it gets built by Ratner. But can we live with his version of the Atlantic Yards?

Where is the signed commitment to affordable housing at rates that the average New Yorker might hope to pay?

Where are these jobs going to be that were promised in Queens and Manhattan and now in Brooklyn? Who will be the population that needs them? What terms of employment?

More importantly, what financial penalties will FCRC incur if these goals are not met? What is their liability if the FCRC is a but as it is predicted to be? What is their ownership of the debt if the whole complex is not profitable?

What happens then?

Does Ratner sell his interest to other city and start a new mega-complex on Staten Island? That will leave him the Bronx, but by then he can start fleecing Manhattan again. No one remembers anything other there. Look at the people in City Hall.

—Steve Hart, Boerum Hill

## 'L Word' is no circus

To the editor:

In the March 5 edition of The Brooklyn Papers, the cover story was, "Get The L off bus shelters," about how some people were finding the bus stop posters advertising "The L Word" offensive. Recently, I saw a bus poster advertising the Ringling Brothers Circus.

I find this much more offensive. I do not understand why some people find public images of partially nude women offensive.

The article said, "Young minds are vulnerable and I think these need to be in responsible locations." My question is, vulnerable to what? Why is it socially acceptable to put posters of that teach children that animal abuse is OK, but the human body is wrong?

Elephants have the largest brain of any mammal. They are kind and altruistic. They live up to 70 years in their

homeland, but their life in captivity averages 14 years. They have family bonds which are robbed of them in circus life. To chain an animal and beat the animal with a bull hook causes insanity. There are many cases of elephants breaking free from their handlers and killing people.

And for all animals in the circus—none of them dance or jump through flaming hoops because they want to—whips, chains, electrical shock prods and muzzles make them do so.

There is no greater abuse than to rob a creature of their freedom, their family and their freedom. I urge everyone to go to circuses.com to learn just how bad the situation is.

—Victoria Booth, Bay Ridge

## It's a park, folks!

To the editor:

Yet a new use for a yet-to-be-developed park emerges. Some folks think it would be a good idea to build a middle school in the middle of Brooklyn Bridge Park [Booster: Put school in new park]. The Brooklyn Papers, March 26].

What will we do with the school and its campus for nearly half the year? While the notion of an educational visitors' center may sound attractive, I'm sure we can serve both of those needs more efficiently using other, existing structures.

Just a final question: who would have jurisdiction over the campus? Where and when we need them and let us do the same with our parks. The cleverer we become, the less attractive the park is likely to be.

—Kevin Breslin, Republican State Commissioner  
52nd Assembly District

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By e-mail: Newsroom@BrooklynPapers.com  
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Letters may be edited and will not be returned.

which, with a two-story penthouse would rise higher than the Candy Factory, to the

calls placed to the Pradici Group were not returned by press time.

Christie Gough, a spokeswoman for the Society of the Architecture of the City, suggested the design of the proposed building itself lacked taste.

"The proposal harmonizes better with the Cadman Plaza towers on Staten Island. [Towers across the street] and the Brooklyn-Queens Expressway than with the existing architecture of the neighborhood," she said, and derided everything from the scale,

Landmarks commissioners seemed to agree with Pearsall. "The issues here go right to the heart of what a historic district is about," said Chairman Robert Tierney, who withheld from making any decisive comments until the applicant's rebuttal, which was postponed for a later date.

"It does my heart good to see the ground opposition as strong as it was 40 years ago," said Landmarks Commissioner Robert Gratz. "I also think it is a precedent to fill in this space. It may not be the best day as an artists' space, but

that's what it was all about at the time. I think it's very important to preserve it as it is."

And two of the commissioners from Brooklyn seemed to weigh on the side of the Heights opposition to the plan. Commissioner Libby Ryan, of Park Slope, said, "This is not a vacant lot, and this is not appropriately scaled. Given those two things there is no way this will do anything but diminish the Brooklyn Heights Historic District."

Tierney closed the hearing at 6:15 pm, and postponed a meeting from the applicants until a later date.

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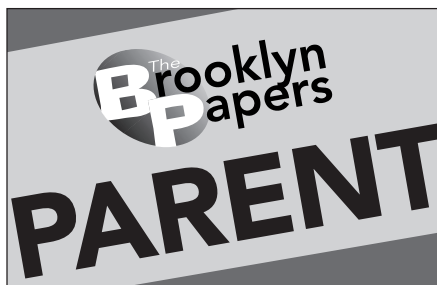
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## Cyberbullies

Q: My teenage daughter is the go-to person for advice for several girls at her school. All the instant messaging and cell phone calls had been harmless for a year or more, until she was called nasty names on someone's online journal and we could not get the comments removed. — a mother

A: Welcome to the "Always On" generation, where kids are deep into a problem that many parents are just now getting a clue about: cyberbullying.

"Girls instant messaging in a group can get into a fight that goes on until 2 in the morning," says Glenn R. Stutzky, an expert on school violence from Michigan State University. "Then someone will print out certain sections of the comments, bring them to school, and add more fuel to the fire."

Cyberbullying, the use of technology to humiliate, threaten or intimidate, is the fastest growing trend in bullying among teens, he says. The technology lends itself to unrestrained cruelty because kids don't see any immediate impact, such as tears. Anonymously tapping away at fragile teenage psyches, emboldened girls (more so than boys) are able to bully 24 hours a day in a painlessly painful, seemingly untraceable forum.

"Kids can't get away," says Stutzky, who runs bully-prevention programs at schools. "They feel like they're tethered to their tormentors. Unlike with bullying in the halls at school, a cyberbully can follow you through the door of your home and be with you around the clock."

More girls than boys crave connecting with friends, and fear knee-jerk reactions if they open up, experts on social bullying have found. They want limits but won't speak up if they fear losing all the privileges that have come to define the way they communicate.

The problem isn't the technology," says Stutzky. "The problem is we've allowed a culture of meanness and abuse to thrive in our schools."

An upcoming Lifetime Television movie "Odd Girl Out" (Monday, April 4 at 9 p.m. EPT) spotlights just how cruel girls can be. Accusations and threats spread over the Internet help push a once-popular teenager out of her coveted cafeteria seat, down the social ladder and into depression. A loving mother and a trustworthy friend prove to be her salvation.

Unlike last year's hit big-screen comedy, "Mean Girls," there's nothing to laugh about in "Odd Girl Out," based on Rachel Simmons' 2003 book by the same name.

Girls' aggression is a much bigger problem than "girls being girls," Simmons has found, and writing off the behavior is a mistake.

Instead, girls need frequent guidance to learn about healthy friendships. (Go to <http://lifetv.com/movies/originals/oddgirlout.php> for more information.)

Parents and teachers, already several years behind the times, don't need to be adept at text and instant messaging, Stutzky says. But they do need enough understanding to be able to monitor usage and address the serious impact of cyberbullying.

At home, placing the computer in a common room, giving safety advice, using software to track online activity, and limiting hours helps — but nothing replaces the value of a trusted relationship between a parent and child or teacher and child, Stutzky says.

"Bullying can get scary," he says. "Having a healthy personal relationship especially a parent, is the best bully-prevention program there is."

Stutzky suggests these steps to combat cyberbullying:

- For schools: Amend anti-bullying policies to include digital bullying. Educate teachers and students about the seriousness of the problem.
- For more information, go to [www.mindoh.com](http://www.mindoh.com) to order free cyberbully prevention tools, and visit [www.bully-ing.org](http://www.bully-ing.org).

### Parent-to-Parent



By Betty Flieger

ment to school officials and parents.

"For parents: 'Let's start talking about it,'" he says. "The problem is not going to go away."

"Listen to your kids without jumping into automatic fix-it mode. In the early stages, try to help your child

build up skills to use to escape from being a target. Supervise cell phone and Internet usage.

• For schools: Amend anti-bullying policies to include digital bullying. Educate teachers and students about the seriousness of the problem.

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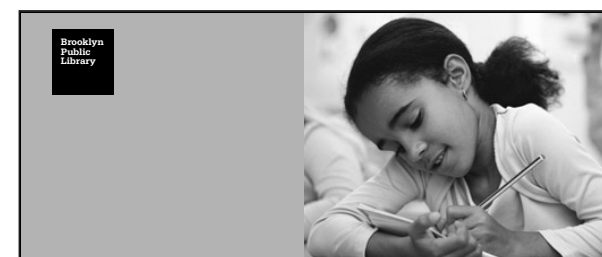
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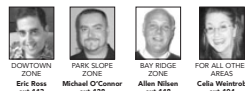
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# Are BPL branches now have high-tech kiosks

By Jotham Sederstrom

The Brooklyn Papers

With renovations nearing completion at all but four of its branches, officials with the Brooklyn Public Library announced this week that the nation's fifth-largest library system has further enhanced its services with touch-screen kiosks and an automated system linked throughout the borough.

The system, the first to be used in any of the city's public libraries, allows patrons to access card catalogs, check out books, pay late fees and sign up for Internet access. The technology, meanwhile, will save enough money to add 68 new technical positions to help assist with printing and Internet searches.

"This program has improved the way we do business," said Gimie Cooper, ex-

ecutive director of the Brooklyn Public Library. "It has allowed our staff to use more time assisting library users and has resulted in real cost savings."

Called the Patron Access Management Service, and installed by Xerox Corporation, the technology, said Cooper, will help alleviate the duties of employees, who until now spent much of their workdays reserving some 1,000 computers for patrons each day. Additionally, she said, workers wasted time giving out roughly 9 million pages of computer and copier printing each year.

"It wasn't a good use of time for somebody with a master's degree," said Cooper of the old system.

Now each patron will be given a key-card, called an "Access Brooklyn Card," that they can slide into terminals to access the library's book collections. Besides

that, money can be added to the card, which can then be used to pay for copies or even buy refreshments (Snapple, of course). And each card has a PIN number, so losing it won't mean losing money. Already, said Cooper, more than 320,000 cards, each with an opening value of 45 cents, have been issued.

While first sparked as a pilot program at the Central Library at Grand Army Plaza and seven other branches, the system is now available at all 58 branches. When they open later this year and next year, four others, including branches in Bedford-Stuyvesant and Mill Basin, will also carry the new technology.

The Brooklyn Public Library is no stranger to technology, said Cooper. Last year, the system received an Excellence in Technology Award for its already considerable computer system.

# City eyeing Red Hook to store health records

By Jess Wisloski

The Brooklyn Papers

Community Board 6 learned this month to ask not what the city could do for them, but what they could do for the city — namely, free up some waterfront property for a new records storage facility.

The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene has announced an interest in finding a 50,000-square-foot warehouse in Red Hook. It was the first time in years that the Citywide Statement of Needs posed a request of the district, which includes Park Slope, Carroll Gardens, Cobble Hill and Red Hook.

The Health Department asked the board to consider their proposal for a new centralized records management and archival center for the department, which currently keeps records filed all over the five boroughs.

Calling the current decentralized filing system "inefficient," the department's needs statement says problems are compounded by legal requirements to keep some records for 20 years or more beyond the date of their service.

"Important records are scattered throughout the city," Health Department officials wrote in the statement of needs, that "need to be saved in a technologically advantageous format that enables the department to more effectively manage legal challenges and conduct historical analysis."

At a March 24 CB6 Land

Use committee meeting, Beverly McDonald, a spokeswoman representing the Health Department's assistant commissioner of operations, James Darrah, explained the reason Red Hook was chosen was because of the agency's desire to have build-out potential, and use of a site that was accessible by car, rail, and "potentially water" as well as having high-load capacity elevators.

## BOSS...

Continued from page 1

paintings, where a landscape by Albert Bierstadt caught his gaze. Springsteen stroled into the Basquiat exhibit and stayed for two hours.

"They took their time going through," said Gorkov, who added that Springsteen inquired about one piece in particular that featured tar and chicken feathers.

"We explained that the chickens were from a long time ago, and he sort of had a chuckle over that — that no chickens were hurt in the making of this art."

A publicist for Springsteen did not return calls seeking comment by press time.

The exhibit, which runs until June 5, features more than 70 paintings and 50 works on paper. Covering two floors, the show covers work produced by Basquiat between 1980 and 1988, when he died of a drug overdose at the age of 27.

Monroe died of a drug

"It's really for storing anything you could imagine," said McDonald, who said records were scattered about the city.

"We have 14 offices alone in Lower Manhattan," she said.

Although the transfer of files in and of itself would be time-consuming, she said it could provide 10 to 15 full-time city jobs for records maintenance that could be hired locally.

"When we offer the public city jobs, they are created and hired out of the community," she said.

Board members suggest several sites, including the Bush Terminal in Sunset Park, which is in CB7.

"We're going to take a look at the suggestions," said McDonald, who said she was encouraged by the community's interest.



Bruce Springsteen, left, with Brooklyn Museum President Arnold Lehman.

overdose in 1992.

While still a teenager living in Brooklyn, Basquiat first emerged as a graffiti artist, whose tag "SAMO" was sprayed throughout Lower Manhattan. After being discovered by Andy Warhol, the self-taught artist quickly drew a following and by the age of 21 he had already been shown

in five exhibitions.

Among the most anticipated works are a series of 32 drawings currently referred to as the "Boros Suite" and one belonging to legendary collector and dealer Thomas Ammann. The portfolio, said Williams, is being seen in its entirety for the first time in the United States.

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Credit counseling requirement under the new Bankruptcy law

By Richard A. Klass, Esq.

Q: I heard that, as part of the new changes to the Bankruptcy laws, people who file for bankruptcy will have to go through a credit counseling course before they file. Is this true?

A: For the last several years, Congress has been trying to reform the Bankruptcy Code in several ways. This year, the US Senate finally passed legislation to amend the Bankruptcy Code, which the House of Representatives is expected to pass and which President Bush has indicated he will sign into law.

As part of the sweeping changes to the Bankruptcy Code, there will be a new requirement upon all individuals who seek bankruptcy protection. Currently, an individual who needs to file for bankruptcy may file immediately (either on his own or by an attorney) without seeking anyone else's permission. Under the proposed changes, an individual will be required, prior to filing the bankruptcy

petition, to attend a credit counseling session or "briefing" at an approved non-profit budget and credit counseling agency that assisted the individual in performing a budget analysis. The individual will have to provide a certificate from the agency that the "briefing" took place.

There will be some occasions when there will not be enough time for the individual filing for bankruptcy to attend a "briefing." At that time, the individual will have to file, with the bankruptcy petition, a sworn affidavit stating the exigent circumstances that preclude the filing of the agency's certificate. Among the exigent circumstances, the individual may show that he: (a) is facing imminent foreclosure, garnishment of wages, eviction, or similar enforcement measure; (b) cannot obtain counseling services because of lack of transportation, incapacity or disability; (c) cannot obtain counseling services for circumstances beyond his control; (d) unable to afford the costs of the "briefing"; or (e) lost or misplaced the agency's certificate.

Richard A. Klass, Esq., maintains a law firm engaged in general civil practice at 16 Court St. in Brooklyn Heights. He may be reached at (718) 834-0801 or [RichardKlass@CourtStreetLaw.com](mailto:RichardKlass@CourtStreetLaw.com) for any questions.

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# Sports club to pool Flatbush Pavilion

By Ariella Cohen  
For The Brooklyn Papers

If all goes as scripted, the recently closed Flatbush Pavilion, one of New York's oldest movie houses, will reopen as a swimming pool this year.

"We want to put the pool there but there are questions with the space; the deal isn't set yet," said Park Slope Sports Club President Mark Tischer.

The sports club, which is upstairs from the theater, leased the cinema space after

the Pavilion's owners shut it down last summer. While the property is still under a temporary lease, architects entered the gold-plated theater doors this week and began drawing up preliminary plans.

Built by silent film comedian John Bunny and opened in 1912 as the Banny Theater, the expansive, two-story brick building has been a movie house for most of its life. The Bunny closed in 1929 at the onset of the Great Depression and the theater reopened in the 1930s as the Plaza Theater,

under which name it operated through the 1990s, eventually becoming a two-screen movie house.

In the late 1960s, the faltering theater began showing X-rated films. Sometime in the 1980s a plaque honoring Bunny disappeared from the front of the building.

The former theater is next to the Seventh Avenue B and Q subway station entrance. Screen Arts Corporation, which renovated and re-opened the Plaza Twin Theater as the Flatbush Pavilion in 2001

closed it last year due to lagging ticket sales and rising rent.

"It is too bad that the theater couldn't survive anymore, but people want conveniences in the area now. They can go to Cobble Hill or Manhattan for a movie. The pool is a convenience people want," Tischer said.

Before settling on converting the space into a pool, the Park Slope Sports Club polled its members with choices of a few expansion options including a beauty spa, a Pilates studio, a "women only" workout area, a juice bar and cafe or the pool, which ended up with the most votes, said Tischer.

Because of size constraints, the club plans to refit the 5,000-square-foot theater with five mini-pools, known as swimmer's treadmills.

Had the club decided to build a yoga studio, it would have been the ninth such amenity in a three-mile radius, the third within the immediate North Flatbush district. The pool will inch up the ratio of theaters to pools to 14-to-8. At one time, the borough held almost 226



The Park Slope Sports Club plans to convert the former home of the Flatbush Pavilion movie theater, on Flatbush Avenue near Seventh Avenue, into swimming pools.

theaters and only one indoor swimming pool, at the YMCA.

"Hot pizza and a cold pool might work," said Bekim

Muja, a pizza cook at Antonio's Pizzeria, next door to the Pavilion. "Of course, I would rather have a movie theater,

but there are worst things than have next door," noting the sushi bar fate of other neighborhood haunts including a bakery and an ice cream shop once across the street.

Still, local cinema aficionados want to see the cinema preserved. "I have already gone to the Park Slope Sports Club and told them how many people will be upset if that theater becomes a pool," said Tischer. Tischer Greener filmmaker Ralph Scott. Before moving to Fort Greene last year, Scott worked as a program director for the Black Hollywood Education and Re-

source Center in Los Angeles.

His scheme, consisting of the theater as a local nightclub where underrepresented filmmakers could screen movies and restore the high-quality screens in a public-like setting. A liquor license, he said, could provide an extra shot of income for the two-screen venue. "People have advised me to take my ideas to the Chamber of Commerce, but so far not much has happened since I heard about the pool," he said.

"As rents go up in the area, amenities change," said Joe Orr, president of the North Flatbush Business Improvement District. "A theater in this area now is a gamble."

While the sale has not been finalized, architects for the sports club began this week to prepare preliminary plans for the theater's interior. Already, architects on the project have noted that the slope of the theater floor might complicate the sports club expansion. At this point all that is sure is that a fitness remake will necessitate a complete gutting of the building and at least six months of construction.

"We had mentioned that it would be cool to keep a screen or the ticket booth, but really, we don't know what will be there until the architects finish," said Tischer.

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## Pataki denies report he won't seek a fourth term

By Marc Humbert  
Associated Press

Gov. George Pataki denied through a spokesman Monday night a report that he has told close associates he doesn't plan to seek re-election next year.

Pataki spokesman David Catalano said the governor told him directly that he had not yet decided about a re-election bid.

"Claims that the governor has decided not to seek a fourth term are false," Catalano said, adding that he was "flatly denying" a report on the all-news NY1 cable television channel.

Citing unidentified sources, NY1 said Pataki was telling close associates that he wouldn't run for re-election, would announce that in the next few weeks and was instead deciding on whether to run for president.

"This is one close associate who hasn't been told anything," Bay Ridge liquor store owner Michael Long, state chairman of New York's Conservative Party and a longtime Pataki ally, told the Associated Press. "I do believe I'm still a close associate of his and I believe I still get a heads-up when he's made up his mind."

The NY1 report also said Pataki political adviser Kieran Mahoney was helping set up a presidential exploratory committee for the governor.

"I am not involved in any way in setting up an exploratory committee for Governor Pataki to run for president," Mahoney told the AP on Monday night.

## VACATION...

**Continued from page 1**

Caribbean. And when people brought this up to me in the past we used to joke that we could offer a trip to Brooklyn.

But over the last 18 years, Brooklyn has really found a cache outside of New York and sometime ago it stopped being a joke to offer a trip," explained Hindy, who joined Borough President Markowitz and Cyclone mascot Sandy the Seagull Wednesday at Main Street's Brooklyn Bridge Park in DUMBO to announce the contest.

The Brooklyn Vacation also includes lunch at Nathan's Famous in Coney Island, and rides on the Cyclone roller coaster and Deno's Wonder Wheel.

Brooklyn holds a mythical place in the American imagination, all over the world for that matter, said Hindy. "Our customers in the New York area and update all of a Brooklyn Vacation."

To be sure, said Hindy, his beer, once confined mainly to the five boroughs, is exported these days to Japan, Denmark and Scandinavia. But it also thrives closer to home, in city's like Albany, Rochester and Syracuse. The contest is only open to New York State residents.

Brooklyn was not always a rural destination. With rising crime and decaying buildings, the borough took a bad rap in the 1970s, only to see its currency increase over the past decade. But with its renaissance, said Hindy, came an opportunity to take advantage of the name.

"It's not just the name, but that helps," said Hindy, the brew's geographical tie. "The name gets the brew's attention, but you have to have a good beer to have them coming back for more."

The sweetestakes entries, said Hindy, will be available at participating bars and grocery and liquor stores throughout New York State. Entry forms are absolutely free, and

said, the chance to take a day-long vacation in the borough of Kings didn't sound like a bad idea, either.

Borough President Marty Markowitz agreed.

"More and more tourists are discovering the treasures of Brooklyn," said Markowitz. "Brooklyn has the traditional pleasures of Coney Island, and is in the vanguard of New York City's art scene as well."

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